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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-079
Monday
25 April 1994

Daily Report
Latin America

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Latin American Ministers Meet EU Counterparts

Meeting Opens in Sao Paulo

PY2204193494 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign ministers of Latin American countries are meeting in Sao Paulo with their European Union [EU] counterparts. This is the first time such a meeting has been held in Brazil. Issues ranging from economy to nuclear disarmament will be discussed.

Brazil was chosen to host the fourth ministerial meeting between European and Latin American countries because the Latin American Parliament, Parlatino, is headquartered here. Army policemen supported by military policemen are handling security because the Federal Police are on strike. The 25 foreign ministers, all of them interested in finding common solutions to comparable problems being faced by their countries, are meeting at the Parlatino building. The main topics to be discussed during this meeting—which will end tomorrow—are democracy, disarmament, non-proliferation of atomic weapons and, naturally, economic growth.

Minister Celso Amorim has said that the Common Market of the South, Mercosur—which is as yet only partially operational—has already succeeded in quadrupling trade among South American countries. Amorim thinks this fact proves that through understanding and mutual assistance, sustained and continuous development can be achieved in any country.

[Begin Amorim recording] Mercosur is an integration model that seeks to follow the example of the EU. We have a great deal to learn from them. This is an important issue that will be discussed here. [end recording]

Rio Group, EU Delegates Begin Meeting

PY2304012494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1911 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Sao Paulo 22 Apr—The foreign ministers and delegates of the Rio Group and the EU who met today here believe the new rules established by the GATT will solve eventual trade disagreements between their blocs.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana today told journalists that there are "less trade barriers" following the agreements reached during the Uruguay Round.

"Just as the political walls have fallen, the economic and trade walls are now falling," the Spanish foreign minister said before the opening ceremony of the fourth annual ministerial meeting of the EU and the Rio Group, the principal Latin American forum for concerted action.

The meeting, which is taking place at the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) headquarters, will end tomorrow with the signature of a 10-page declaration in which the discussion will be evaluated and the bases for a future inter-regional relation will be established.

The Rio Group has expressed concern and rejection over the possible environmental, social, and political conditioning by the EU of Latin American exports.

The Europeans and Latin Americans who agree that the dialogue between the two should be upgraded have asserted that mechanisms to solve future trade conflicts may be found in the recent GATT resolutions.

Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio has told EFE that "an alarm must be set off" in face of the possible establishment of new trade obstacles. She nonetheless admitted that arbitration and problem-resolving instruments are envisaged by the GATT.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said: "The GATT rules eliminate these fears since they create a trade order to counter protectionist practices."

Regarding the attempted inclusion of a "social clause" on trade flow, Spanish Foreign Minister Solana expressed his wish that Europeans and Latin Americans reach "a joint position" within the organization that will soon replace the GATT, that is, the World Trade Organization.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim opened the meeting in Sao Paulo today. He said that despite some disagreements, the Rio Group is aware of the permanent goodwill of the EU to intensify the general system of international trade.

The current circumstances, Amorim said, offer new opportunities to renew relations, adding: "We observe the temptation to adopt an hegemonic attitude, which is natural following the disappearance of the bipolarity" that prevailed in the past.

Theodoros Pangalos, the alternate foreign minister of Greece and EU acting president, and European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin then spoke.

Marin said that although Latin America has attained economic growth, financial balance, and the consolidation of its democratic institutions "it still has a pending subject: the accumulated social debt as a consequence of the economic adjustment processes."

Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa defended a greater access of Latin American exports to the EU market and rejected any trade conditioning.

He added that the increase of European exports to Latin America—which amounted to 23 billion ECU's in 1993—contrast with the sharp decline of imports—22 billion ECU's—when the trade balance was negative by 10 billion ECU's in 1990.

The foreign ministers and delegates who participated in the first of the two work sessions today agreed on the need for a "quality improvement step" in the dialogue between Europe and Latin America.

Total Nuclear Test Ban Urged

PY2304023094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2320 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 22 Apr (EFE)—In a final declaration issued at the end of the fourth meeting of foreign ministers, the Rio Group and the EU today agreed to call for a total ban on nuclear tests in the world and condemned every form of terrorism.

Regarding their commitment to disarmament and to nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the participants of the fourth Rio Group-EU ministerial meeting expressed their complete agreement in condemning every form of nuclear testing.

The Sao Paulo Declaration, which was approved by 13 foreign ministers of the Rio Group and representatives of the EU member countries, states: "The ministers (of the Rio Group and the EU) agree on proposing the signing of a multilateral treaty that would impose a total ban on nuclear tests and would be fully verifiable."

In the Sao Paulo Declaration, the Rio Group and the EU also expressed their total condemnation of terrorism.

The declaration states: "The ministers...condemn without reservations—as an unjustifiable crime—every act of terrorism, irrespective of who perpetrates them, where, or why, because acts of terrorism endanger and claim the lives of human beings. They also undermine human dignity and are a threat to democracy and to a state of law."

The ministerial meeting between the Rio Group and the EU is the fourth since bilateral talks were institutionalized by the Rome Declaration (1990). The meeting, which is being held at the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) building in the city of Sao Paulo, is scheduled to close on 23 April but the final declaration was released today.

In addition to condemning nuclear tests, the Rio Group-EU ministers praised the "recent progress made in consolidating the regime for a total ban on nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean as established in the Tlatelolco Treaty."

The declaration also expressed support for the Convention Banning the Development, Production, Storage, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, and revealed their resolve to adopt specific measures to fully implement the Convention on Biological Weapons.

The Rio Group and the EU also voiced their desire to cooperate to give openness to international arms trade.

The latter point was specifically requested by Andean countries like Colombia, which has been affected by arms trafficking financed by narcotrafficking and terrorist organizations.

The two blocs' representatives agreed to promote a UN Registry of Conventional Weapons with a view to effectively controlling arms possession around the world.

In the Sao Paulo Declaration, which consists of 19 points focusing on economic and political issues, the Rio Group and the EU reaffirm their respect for democracy and the principles of free trade.

The Rio Group and the EU also have agreed to define a new model of bilateral relations in which the Latin American countries would have greater participation in various international issues such as world security and the reform of the UN Charter.

The Latin American countries also expressed their concern about the social, environmental, and labor conditions some European nations are starting to impose on their trade with developing countries.

The continuation and expansion of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which expires this year and regulates trade between the EU and Latin American countries, was another request made by the Rio Group that was included in the final declaration.

The Sao Paulo meeting was attended by all of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group—which consists of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Attending the meeting as observers were the ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala, representing the Caribbean and Central America, respectively.

The EU was represented by the foreign ministers of Spain and Portugal; Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos, who is vice president of the EU; deputy ministers; and deputy ministers of the other members of the "Group of 12" (Denmark, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and France).

Venezualen Inclusion in Trade Urged

PY2304010394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 22 Apr (EFE)—Andean countries receiving trade benefits from the EU as compensation for their fight against the drug trade today proposed that the European Commission [EC] extend similar benefits to Venezuela, which also is committed to fighting drugs.

The proposal to include Venezuela among those countries receiving compensation for their fight on drugs was made by the foreign ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela at a meeting they held today with Manuel Marin, a Spaniard who serves as EC vice president and commissioner for Latin America.

In remarks to EFE, Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin said they had asked Marin "that the EU study the possibility of extending those benefits to Venezuela, a country that also needs trade compensation for allocating its resources to fighting the drug trade."

Several export products from Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are entitled to tariff reductions in Europe under a special paragraph of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a mechanism whereby the EU regulates its trade with Latin American countries.

Marin, who met with the foreign ministers of Andean countries to listen to their proposals concerning the renewal and expansion of the GSP, will convey these proposals to the other EC members.

The GSP expires late this year, and the EU must decide whether to renew the foreign trade mechanism as is, amend it, or expand it.

The Andean countries, Sanin said, expressed their interest in having the GSP renewed and expanded and that the trade benefits the EU is granting countries involved in drug enforcement efforts be extended to Venezuela.

The meeting between Marin and the Andean foreign ministers was held simultaneously with the fourth meeting of Rio Group and EU ministers that began today at the Latin American Parliament building in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo.

Marin is scheduled to meet on 23 April with the foreign ministers of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries (which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) to hear their proposals regarding the GSP.

Attending the ministerial meeting are all the foreign ministers of the Rio Group members countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Also attending the meeting as observers are the ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala, representing the Caribbean and Central America, respectively.

The EU is represented by the foreign ministers of Spain and Portugal; Greek Alternate Foreign Affairs Minister Theodoros Pangalos; and deputy ministers and vice ministers from the other EU member countries (Germany, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom).

Since the signing of the Rome Declaration (1990)—which institutionalized talks between the EU and the Rio Group, the main Latin American forum for concerted political and economic action and for promoting integration—the two sides have held three meetings: the first in Luxembourg (April 1991), the second in Santiago, Chile (May 1992), and the third in Copenhagen (April 1993).

Rio Group, EU Plan Trade Meeting

PY2304030494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 22 Apr, (EFE)—The member countries of the Rio Group and the EU today agreed to hold a high-ranking trade meeting to evaluate the impact of the GATT pacts on international trade.

The decision to hold the meeting is included as a special point in the final declaration of the fourth ministerial meeting between the Rio Group and the EU that was made public this evening, despite the meeting lasting until 23 April.

The ministerial meeting, the fourth since the talks between the Rio Group and the EU were institutionalized through the Declaration of Rome in 1990, is taking place in the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) headquarters in this city, with the participation of all the Rio Group foreign ministers.

The trade meeting should take place before the end of the year with the participation of the vice ministers of foreign trade of the 13 member countries of the Rio Group—the main Latin American political and economic forum—and the 12 EU countries.

When expressing their interest in holding a new meeting among economic and trade experts from the two blocs, the participants at the fourth ministerial meeting said this kind of "specialized forum of continuous dialogue has been very useful in exchanging ideas about current affairs and matters of common interest."

The trade meeting's main objective will be to determine the new context of international trade after the signature on 15 April in Marrakech of the GATT pacts and the creation of the World Trade Organization.

The effects of the European market's unification process on Latin American exports also will be analyzed at the trade meeting.

The Rio Group asked for more trade meetings between the two blocs because after two meetings of foreign trade vice ministers in Brussels they had not defined an agenda for more similar meetings.

The Latin American countries said the meetings were useful to "study the effects of the unified European market and the future expansion of the EU, as well as the regional integration programs and free trade zones of Latin America." [passage omitted]

Joint Declaration Issued

PY2304024594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 22 Apr—The foreign ministers and delegates from the Rio Group and the EU today condemned in a joint declaration any attempt to disrupt democracy in Latin America.

The representatives of the 12 EU countries and the 13 representatives of the Rio Group, the main Latin American forum for concerted action, promised to contribute to the strengthening of democracy through the subordination of all sectors to legally constituted civilian authorities.

The so-called "Sao Paulo Declaration," which is eight pages long, establishes the bases for future dialogue in the political and economic fields.

The European bloc wanted the document to mention the subordination of the armed forces to civilian power. This proposal, however, was softened at the recommendation of the Latin Americans, who preferred not to mention the military at a moment when threats to the institutional order were felt in some countries.

The document condemns xenophobia, racism, terrorism, and the illegal production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs, as well as money laundering.

The delegates agreed to concentrate their "efforts in combating the wave of racism and xenophobia against, for example, immigrant workers and their families through, among other measures, the application of strict laws and the implementation of intense education campaigns."

As for drug enforcement, the participants agreed to apply global solutions to the drug problem, prevent the misuse of chemical precursors used in drug manufacturing, and promote alternative income sources for the benefit of the affected peasants.

The ministers and delegates from the two blocs repudiated "without reservations and labeled as an unjustifiable crime all kinds of terrorist actions wherever they are committed by anyone and for any reason, because they endanger and eliminate human lives, offend the dignity of the human being, and attack democracy and the state of law."

They thus agreed to reinforce cooperation and coordinate practical measures to combat terrorism.

The declaration pointed out the EU's and the Rio Group's interest in eradicating poverty, defending the environment, and rejecting "arbitrary unilateral actions" in international trade and noncompliance with the GATT principles.

The document states that mutual cooperation must be aimed at the eradication of poverty and the protection of the less-favored classes. It must efficiently promote democracy and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, industry, science, and technology.

The chiefs of European and Latin American diplomacy stated that the "right to development is part of basic human rights, the human being is the central subject of development, and the lack of development cannot be used as an excuse to justify disrespect for internationally acknowledged human rights."

They also recognized the importance of the Ibero-American Conference, whose fourth summit of chiefs of state and government will take place on 14 and 15 June in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

They also promised intensifying dialogue within the UN framework for the purpose of reforming its charter and to improve the organization's work methods.

The two blocs made an appeal to countries to renew their commitment to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; they suggested signing a multilateral treaty to totally prohibit nuclear tests, and they mentioned the progress in the consolidation of the system of a total prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

Andean Parliament Meets To Discuss Social Charter

PA2404162694 Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 20 Apr 94 p 18

[Article by Norys Nata]

[Text] On 19 April, Andean Parliament [Parlandino] President Paciano Padron said that the goal set for Colombian-Venezuelan trade integration has been estimated at $3 billion, a $1.5-billion increase over the 1993 level. Padron made this statement following the inauguration of the Parlandino, which includes representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, at the La Perla Building—Parlandino headquarters.

Following the inauguration, Padron told journalists that the signing of the Cartagena Agreement will commemorate its 25th anniversary in May. The Cartagena Agreement was an extremely slow process during the first 20 years, but it began to take off in the past five years, particularly in the financial arena—a circumstance no one can deny.

Padron stated that in 1992 commercial exchange between Colombia and Venezuela surpassed $1 million; in 1993, it exceeded $1.5 billion; and, in 1994, it is expected to exceed $3 billion, which is considered significant progress compared with other countries. Currently, Colombia and Venezuela are considering moving from mere economic integration to social, cultural, and political integration.

Padron explained that the Andean Social Summit, which will be inaugurated at 1100 today on the Senate floor in the presence of President Rafael Caldera and which ends on 22 April, seeks mainly to obtain the approval of the Andean Social Charter. The Andean Social Charter contains alternatives for improving the living standards of citizens of the five member countries that unfortunately have not moved in a parallel manner toward economic development.

Padron believes that the charter contains elements fundamental to solving the problem, but, in addition to that, these elements deal with establishing responsibilities which, according to him, set the charter apart from other documents issued by international organizations. Padron added that the Andean Social Charter assigns responsibilities among the international organizations operating in the area and, of course, among the governments and parliaments from the five countries.

Padron believes that events of this type lead to popular support for the integration process, which has lacked it. This is why they view lending popular support to the integration process as an objective essential for bringing to life the union of the five countries as epitomized in the dream of our liberator Simon Bolivar.

Integrationist Vocation

During his inauguration speech, Congress President Eduardo Gomez Tamayo indicated that recently our countries have made significant progress in the area of commercial and economic integration.

Gomez said: "We could even say that we have begun to overcome some political differences that limited the integration process in the past. This is the time to surpass difficult circumstances and persevere on the path of integration. We must advance in the identification of policies as Colombia and Venezuela, which have experienced more than promising results in the commercial sector, have done."

He also said that the current international situation demands the most determined integrationist vocation from Venezuela. As it is true that the situation has changed, it is also true that today's world requires an innovative vision in various aspects. Gomez noted that the trend toward forming economic blocs is a most pressing circumstance, adding: "Insofar as our peoples consolidate intraregional trade and strengthen their political and cultural relations, we will be able to hope to compete in the world context."

The Andean Social Charter

The seven subjects the Andean Social Charter is contemplating include social integration and poverty eradication; children, women, and the family; health and nutrition; basic needs and housing; education and culture; productive employment and the informal economy; and jobs. The discussion of these subjects began during the Parlandino meeting in Caracas on 19 April, and their approval is expected at the closing session on 22 April.

Regarding education, participants are proposing to their governments the reinforcement of literacy programs. In the area of housing, they are urging the relevant authorities in the Andean nations to implement plans designed to face the housing shortage typical of the region's urban and rural areas.

The need to implement health programs ranks among the most critical, especially regarding the decentralization of services. In the area of nutrition, food assistance plans targeting the poor are deemed necessary.

Regarding jobs, they recommend that their governments implement policies that lead to the creation of new businesses, cooperatives, and other organizations linked to the informal economy in order to reduce unemployment, specifically in depressed groups in the rural sector.

As for children, women, and the family, they propose the implementation of political, economic, and social programs. They recommend assigning human, technical, and economic resources to centers of attention, protection, and development as well as promoting and strengthening the [words indistinct] all children, women, and the family in general.

Regarding social integration and poverty eradication, they propose the adoption of policies that facilitate the incorporation of all social sectors in the subregional integration growth-and-development processes.

Cuba

Nation, Emigre Community Conference Begins

Robaina Opening Address

FL2204181794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpt] The conference on the Nation and the Emigre Community began this morning at the Convention Center with an opening address by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. There are 200 emigre community representatives in attendance from approximately 40 countries. In addition to Robaina, the conference is also being chaired by Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers; Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government; Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists; and Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples. Conference spokesman Miguel Alfonso and secretary Jose Cabanas are present.

For those familiar with three decades of pressures, threats, and aggressions, it is easy to understand the personal effort of many and the merit of your decision to not sell out to those who exerted pressures and threats to prevent this meeting: These were the exact words of Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina during a welcoming address to the conference participants on behalf of the Cuban Government.

In his address, Robaina stated that the presence in Havana of Cubans who live abroad is an indication of support and identification with the Cuban nation as well as a recognition of our government's valor in convening this conference in the midst of the pressing and urgent tasks Cuba faces today.

[Robaina] "You have arrived in Cuba in the midst of an exceptional period, when our people are making extraordinary efforts to heroically preserve the fatherland's independence and sovereignty, and the gigantic accomplishments of the Revolution. If we commit to this conference, it is because the subject deserves to see the beginning of a joint discussion aimed at making progress along the road to normalize ties between the nation and its emigre community."

The conference is taking place under the same conditions of abnormality, of a U.S. policy of hostility toward Cuba, which since the triumph of the Revolution have shaped the ties with the emigre community.

[Robaina] "The fact that we are here today in this room is not even remotely the result of a miracle or accident. It is above all the result of our maturity, strength, and independence, and also the result of a growing attitude of respect and understanding of a significant portion of the emigre community who identifies more each day with the vital interests of Cuba." [passage omitted]

Further on Robaina Opening Address

FL2404235194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0033 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez at opening ceremony of the Nation and Emigre Community Conference held at the Convention Center in Havana City on 22 April—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator Sergio Corrieri] Good morning to all. The long-awaited time to begin this conference has arrived. On behalf of the committee in charge of preparing this conference, I wish to extend the warmest welcome to all.

First of all, I would like to introduce the people who are here with us: Comrade Carlos Lage [applause], secretary of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee; Comrade Roberto Robaina, minister of Foreign Relations [applause]; Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [applause]; Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [applause]; Miguel Alfonso, who will be the spokesman for this conference; Jose Cabanas, the secretary [applause]; and myself, Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [applause], who will be the moderator of this conference. I would like to add that a group of personalities from various sectors of Cuban society are here as guests of the conference. We feel that these personalities, because of their work, their experience, or the nature of the posts they are holding, can be useful and suitable for the work we are doing. They will participate in this conference, and if they wish, will also be able to express their opinions on the subjects discussed here.

For the official opening of this meeting, we give the floor to Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina [applause].

[Robaina] Guests of this conference, on behalf of the government, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all.

For those of us who for more than three decades have experienced pressures, threats, and aggressions, it is easy to understand the personal effort made by many and the merit of their decision not to allow themselves to be defeated by those who have threatened and applied pressure to prevent this meeting from taking place, nor by economic difficulties, the family, or other problems that have thwarted the attendance of many.

We interpret your presence here today as a demonstration of attachment to and identification with the Cuban nation. We must also stress the courage of our government in calling for this conference immersed as it is in the country's unavoidable mandatory tasks. We are facing difficult circumstances for guaranteeing our future, when the actions seeking to destroy the projects undertaken by our people for more than 30 years not only prevail, but are intensifying and multiplying. This conference is taking place under the same abnormal conditions that stemmed from the hostile U.S. policy against Cuba since the revolutionary victory, conditions that have marked Cuban relations with the emigre community.

The fact that we are here today in this room is not even remotely the result of a miracle or accident. It is above all the result of our maturity, strength, and independence, and also the result of a growing attitude of respect and understanding of a significant portion of the emigre community who identifies more each day with the vital interests of Cuba.

You have arrived in Cuba in the midst of an exceptional period, when our people are making extraordinary efforts to heroically preserve the fatherland's independence and, and the gigantic accomplishments of the Revolution. If we commit to this conference, it is because the subject deserves to see the beginning of a joint discussion aimed at making progress along the road to normalize ties between the nation and its emigre community.

As expected, the call for this conference has prompted mixed reactions. The name, and the seriousness of our intentions have been criticized. There were even those who expressed doubts that this conference would take place, without mentioning those who by all means tried to prevent it, thwart it, or frustrate it. Of course, there were also those who, knowing us better, realized from the very beginning that this endeavor was feasible, and supported it. Many people of goodwill have joined them in this task and they jointly managed to clean up the stains to appreciate the light.

This conference has also become a reality because of the resoluteness and persistence of many who are present here, and of others who for different reasons are not present here today. Many have participated in this effort to achieve rapprochement, some silently, others openly. There are those who have been dedicated to this task for many difficult years, while others joined only recently. In spite of everything, various initiatives and contacts have been promoted, and several actions have been carried out.

We are finally here to begin the meeting in accordance with the call made on 14 February 1994. The objectives have been established, but it would not hurt to repeat them here today. They are: to study possible measures to normalize relations between emigres and the nation, between institutions and the family; to promote stable exchange in the cultural, family, and social areas; to foment constructive actions of residents abroad, taking into account the current historical situation in which the country's destiny, the preservation of its sovereignty and independence, as well as the achievements of the people, represent a common platform for all Cubans of good will.

We must therefore jointly identify those areas in which, through the participation of all, we can progress toward the establishment of normal relations to which we all have the right.

Some have questioned the use of the word emigration in our call. You may interpret this, as some of you have already done publicly, and as is our intention, as referring strictly to those who live outside the fatherland.

The participation in and representation at this meeting has also been questioned. The data can speak for itself. Here we have with us 204 emigres, residents of 27 countries. This number is increasing as the hours pass. Among them we can find professionals in various areas—journalists, artists, writers, housewives, retired people, workers, employees, businessmen, teachers, social workers, religious people, and students. Moreover, we all know that the various political and ideological trends are represented at this conference, which does not prevent our willingness to work for the objective that has brought us together here today.

This conference is the continuation of difficult, complex work that has been carried out over a long period. The first important result is the conference itself and the possibilities it offers to go on. The respect and intelligence with which we are to discuss each of the subjects that are worrying us within the nation-emigres conference, must characterize our current dialogue, and must represent essential premises for the future.

It would be too ambitious to pretend that in only three days we will be able to resolve all existing problems, when some of the essential ones do not depend exclusively on us. The important thing is to keep up this common effort.

With that spirit, let us begin then the work of our conference. Thank you very much. [applause]

Robaina: Cubans' Perceptions Changing

PA2404020394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina gave a detailed explanation of the Cuban Government's criteria regarding Cuban emigres during the second day of The Nation and the Emigrants Conference, at which this topic, considered the meeting's main subject, was analyzed.

The minister explained that the overall perception of the Cuban community abroad has changed. He stressed that current migration laws respond to the need to protect Cuba, thus the political rights of Cubans living in Cuba cannot be the same as those who live abroad.

Conference spokesman Miguel Alfonso told the press that talks between the official Cuban representatives and the 215 guests are proceeding in an atmosphere of respect and are characterized by an absence of confrontation.

Cuban visitors, most of whom are U.S. residents, requested certain changes to the visa system, the creation of an official organization to handle their affairs, and the opening of several consulates in the United States. They also asked that their children be allowed to study in Cuba.

The Nation and the Emigrants Conference was convened by the Cuban Government and is being held at the Havana Convention Center with the participation of Cubans who reside in 27 different countries.

Conference Spokesman Details Events

FL2304022094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by journalist Roberto Cavada at the Convention Center in Havana on 22 April—live or recorded]

[Text] The deliberations at the conference, "The Nation and the Emigre Community," which began this morning at the Convention Center, are still under way. During a recess just a few moments ago, conference spokesman Miguel Alfonso held a briefing [preceding word in English] on the first day's work.

During this first day, the conference heard a speech by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of Cuba's parliament, on Cuba's current political institutions. Later, Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, made a speech. Prieto commented on the culture, on being Cuban, and on things Cuban [la cultura, cubanidad, y cubania], a topic that is at this very moment being discussed behind closed doors.

About the discussions that took place following the lecturers' speeches, spokesman Alfonso stressed to the press:

[Begin Alfonso recording] I would like to point out here something I think is important for you to know about: the tone of respect and high-mindedness of that discussion. I think that discussion was really—and I have a certain amount of parliamentary experience on which to base what I am going to say—exemplary as to civility and depth of ideas. It could best be described as a discussion characterized by mutual respect, with everyone who spoke there expressing his opinion freely. A number of questions that are for the first time—at least as far as I know—being discussed, were spoken about in a totally open and frank manner. The climate was extremely relaxed, respectful, and of high quality regarding both the level of ideas and the nobility of aims.

As far as I am concerned, in my opinion, it is an excellent beginning to this conference. [end recording]

Miguel Alfonso confirmed that nine Cubans spoke during the morning—Cubans who, among other topics, brought up the possibility of maintaining a Cuban identity despite the fact that one lives outside Cuba and who expressed concern over certain problems of corruption that might be brought about by the economic changes being made in Cuba.

According to Alfonso, the speakers said that the U.S. blockade is the key element for understanding the current situation on the island and the need to eradicate that blockade. Lastly, they urged the Cubans inside Cuba to understand the emigres; and the emigres, in turn, advocated not forgetting the Cubans on the island.

Last, Miguel Alfonso brought the list of participants up to date. There are already 210 emigres on that list, among them 156 who live in the United States, who approved drawing up an official directory of the conference, but with a private character, to be circulated only among the participants and the secretariat [not further identified].

That is all we have right now, Cesar. In just a few moments, journalist Maria Elena Alonso will make a collage of the participants' impressions during this first day of work, and Zenaida Costales will present an exclusive interview with one of those exiled in the United States.

Roberto Cavada wishes you a good evening, Cubans.

Journalist Reports on Conference

FL2404213394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The conference entitled the Nation and the Emigre Community continues today with an analysis of the matter of current relations and prospects between the nation and the Cuban community abroad. This topic was addressed by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. Here is a report on this morning's session by journalists Zenaida Costales, Maria Elena Alonso, and Orlando Contreras [as heard]:

[Begin Contreras recording] Upon talking this morning about emigration problems, their origin, the nature of this conference, and the desire to pursue work jointly with the emigre community in order to normalize relations, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said that Cuba realizes the time has come for consular facilities to exist not only in Washington, and that the U.S. authorities are aware of this opinion.

Robaina said he felt it was necessary to give this conference some continuity, and also said he feels that the diversity of ideas within the emigre community should not constitute an obstacle to continuing this work.

The foreign minister said: Cuba is not giving up on the emigres, and the emigres are not giving up on the fatherland. Robaina explained: The society summoning them is not a bankrupt society, and added that all the proposals being presented at this meeting will be studied.

The foreign minister summed up the history of Cuban emigration, the historical circumstances surrounding it, and its nuances—from Heredia to Wilfredo Lam—and the (?fundamental) differences that exist between the emigre community in favor of annexation, and that part of the community that demands that the nation's sovereignty, history, and culture remain intact and linked to its projected future, both inside the United States and in other countries.

Robaina's words led to a discussion that, like the first day's, unfolded within a framework of respect and a willingness to seek feasible solutions, the culmination of which obviously overflows the framework of this conference of only three working days.

However, to judge by the statements of emigres, problem areas and possible solutions are being identified; and areas for concrete proposals by the emigre community to the nation—topics such as the emigres' entry into and exit from Cuba; the positive tone of the change in perceptions of an important part of the emigre community, also linked to the nation's understanding toward those Cubans; and other specific matters. Just a few moments ago, conference spokesman Miguel Alfonso gave a briefing [preceding word in English] on this morning's work. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Politburo Member Views Conference

FL2504003694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Various news media throughout the world are closely following the development of the The Nation and Emigre Community Conference. One of these media is the NBC television network, which released the following report:

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] In an interview with the NBC network yesterday afternoon, [Politburo member] Abel Prieto referred to the conference:

[Prieto, in progress] ...and I do not think any emigre has come with that intention. I think they have come with great respect, and this morning they were listening and discussing the Cuban political system; in the afternoon we discussed culture. I believe there are many paths and bridges that can be opened through cultural activities.

[Reporter] Prieto also explained the administrative reorganization that is being carried out on the island.

[Prieto] For a long time now we have been making adjustments. We are working on some reforms to streamline the country's finances.

[Reporter] Some people abroad are asking when democratic elections will be held in the country, but according to Prieto, this main discussion should focus more on the definition of democracy.

[Prieto] According to our Constitution, the president is elected indirectly. He is elected by the parliament, the members of which are directly elected by the people. I think we must review the ideas on democracy that have been so often repeated concerning Cuba. I think the people who have freedom of thought must study the Cuban experience. It is an interesting experience, and I think we should go a little more deeply into it. The problem is that there are many stereotypes on this matter and democracy is taken as synonymous with a specific model, which we need to review to see just how democratic it really is. I think democracy is a dream that is still far removed from men. This is my personal opinion on this matter.

[Reporter] Prieto also referred to the U.S. blockade against Cuba meant to force Fidel Castro's departure from the presidency. Referring to this situation, Prieto used a baseball analogy.

[Prieto] The pitcher is removed only when the team decides he is no longer suitable. In this case there was a Cuban poet, who has unfortunately already passed away, but when we were asked from abroad to replace Fidel, this poet used to say that this is the first time that the opposite team has asked us to remove our pitcher.

[Reporter] According to Prieto, the embargo against Cuba violates the human rights of millions of Cubans. [end recording]

Castro To Meet With Emigrants 'Tonight'

PA2404231494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 2246 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Program for the Mediterranean]

[Text] President Fidel Castro will meet tonight with more than 200 Cuban emigrants living in some 30 countries who participated in The Nation and the Emigrants Conference in Havana, the objective of which was to normalize ties with the country's institutions and their relatives on the island.

Attendees View Solutions

PA2404025494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Rafael Huguet, a former member of the Alpha 66 terrorist organization who is taking part in The Nation and the Emigrants Conference in Havana, said that the argument that violence is necessary to resolve Cuban problems has been irreversibly defeated.

Luis Tornes, who took part in the foiled Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, admitted that the use of arms against Cuba is useless and said that Washington must realize that Cuba is not a U.S. territory.

Attorney Magda Montiel said the conference marks the beginning of a stage that shows Washington that there are Cubans willing to hold a dialogue, but it cannot be only one way.

Patricia Gutierrez told the press that regardless of differences, it is clear that the welfare of the fatherland is the objective. Patricia is the daughter of Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, who was imprisoned for 22 years in Cuba for his counterrevolutionary activities. Gutierrez Menoyo later went to the United States.

Manolo Hidalgo, the 24-year-old son of Cuban emigres who left the country in 1961, said that many Cuban-Americans his age would like to help solve the Cuban crisis, regardless of any intimidation intended to stop them.

Emigrants View Conference Developments

PA2404174994 Paris AFP in Spanish 1411 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Havana, 24 Apr (AFP)—The Cuban Government will create a special department within the Foreign Ministry for emigrants. This was announced on Saturday by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to the 215 Cuban emigrants who are participating in "The Nation and the Emigrants" conference. Robaina also mentioned five additional decisions made by the government in an attempt to make more flexible the relations with a large number of emigrants, excluding the sector described as "aggressive."

However, participants at the conference who were asked to comment on this today said that the six measures announced by Robaina are not enough.

The decisions announced by Robaina are:
—The creation of a special department for emigrants within the Foreign Ministry.
—The lowering, from five to one year, the time between visits of emigrants who left the country "legally" and who wish to return to visit their family.
—The elimination of the order that during the emigrants visit to the country they must stay in a hotel for Cubans residing abroad.
—Allowing a "small" group of Cuban youths who reside abroad to attend the university in Cuba.
—To put out a magazine for emigrants.
—To give continuity to the contact the government resumed with the emigrants through this conference.

It was not clear whether among the Cubans who left the country "legally" the government is including those who left the country for a short visit abroad and once there decided to stay. Meanwhile, even though the required five-year term between visits for those who left the country "legally" has been lowered to one year, the request for a visa continues to be obligatory.

In the hallways of the Comodoro Hotel where those attending the conference are staying, the comments on the decisions announced was less than enthusiastic. "It is all right...for starters," a businessman with commercial ties to Cuba said. Another participant, who is visiting the island for the first time since 1989, described the decisions as "a little less than nothing." A third participant described the decisions as "candy in the middle of a party that should have better prizes at the end."

Attending the conference are well-known Cuban emigrants most of whom reside in the United States and who peacefully and "constructively" oppose the Castro government, and others who openly support the system.

In private, several of the opposers expressed their concern regarding an eventual "return with empty hands" to Miami and other U.S. cities where groups of active anti-Castro emigrants have accused them of being "traitors" because they went to Cuba.

Conference To Conclude 'With Modest Results'

PA2404004994 Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Havana, 23 Apr (AFP)—A meeting between the Cuban Government and 215 moderate Cuban opposition representatives living abroad—mostly in the United States—will conclude tomorrow in Havana with modest results.

The government organized the "The Nation and the Emigrants Conference" and limited its goals to the following: To begin changing ideas in order to reach an eventual normalization of relations between Cuba and Cubans living abroad.

Cubans who call for the armed overthrow of Castro and who support the U.S. trade, economic, and financial embargo against Cuba that has been in effect since 1962 were excluded from the meeting.

Participants include prominent Cuban emigrants who in some cases have expressed subtle sympathy for the Castro Government, and others who in the past have raised weapons against the regime but now call for a peaceful dialogue.

This afternoon participants agreed that the conference will yield modest results, which they consider the initial gambit in a long game.

As of this afternoon, President Fidel Castro had not attended the conference, which opened on 22 April with a speech by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. [passage omitted]

Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers and member of the Communist Party Politburo, will address the conference on Sunday, the last day of the meeting.

According to the agenda, a "comment period" is scheduled following each speech, but according to several participants, the time set aside for dialogue has thus far been, with few exceptions, rather sedate. [passage omitted]

Lage Presents Economic Analysis

FL2504005694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2001 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Carlos Lage, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, presented to participants of the Nation and the Emigre Community Conference an analysis on the current situation of the economy, and its prospects. Lage's presentation brought about an exchange of ideas by Cuban authorities and the more than 200 residents from abroad who are attending the forum.

The Nation and the Emigre Community Conference will conclude today at 2030 GMT and according to Miguel Alfonso, spokesman for the conference, the debate has retained an elevated tone of respect. Especially notable was the positive attitude toward the fatherland.

The meeting was inaugurated on Friday with speeches by Ricardo Alarcon and Abel Prieto, presidents of the National Assembly of the People's Government and the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, respectively, and by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

Among the decisions adopted during the conference with the emigre community were: continuation of contacts and exchanges to promote the normalization of relations, creation of an office to take care of emigration issues, and creation of a specialized magazine for that sector. The elimination of the five-year waiting period for those who abandoned the country to legally return, and abolition of the requirement for them to obtain reservations in hotels, were other measures discussed.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina also informed participants at the conference of the government's willingness to facilitate cultural links reaffirming their Cuban nature.

The meeting was devised by our country in an attempt to identify common problems between the nation and the emigre community and to promote solutions to those problems.

Politburo Member Closes Conference

FL2504021094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Nation and the Emigre Community Conference concluded today at the Convention Center in Havana. The conference closed its doors, but opened doors to ties between Cuba and its children abroad. The closing remarks were by Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer:

[Begin Balaguer recording] We conclude the Nation and the Emigre Community Conference with great satisfaction and the natural uncertainty of those who begin a new path. Beginning our journey down a new road is precisely what we have been doing here these past three days. [end recording]

The meeting that was called by the Cuban Government continues a process which began in 1978 and that did not conclude with just words. Regarding this conference, Politburo member Carlos Lage said:

[Begin Lage recording] These meetings were held in an atmosphere of respect. I believe these meetings have been useful and positive and that they will not end here, but will continue. I believe we can expect many things. Just yesterday we announced some measures we had been analyzing. There may be many openings, but the reality of our relations with the emigre community is facing a difficult obstacle, an obstacle that cannot be ignored: the U.S. blockade against Cuba. [end recording]

The hosts announced several measures that will contribute to advancing this identification between the two sides of the Cuban culture. [passage omitted]

PRENSA LATINA Writer Cites Blockade Effects

PA2204141894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Commentary by PRENSA LATINA reporter Nicanor Leon Cotayo from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The effects of the U.S. blockade on Cuba reared their heads in a particularly harsh fashion in the first months of 1994. Contrary to what happened over the previous three years, several effects of the siege have landed simultaneous blows on the Cuban people, particularly hurting their food supply and some areas of the public health system. It is important to recall that since 6 July 1960, almost 34 years ago, the U.S. Government has stopped buying sugar from the island. One of the main objectives of the blockade was to try to curb as much as possible the inflow of foreign financial resources essential to Havana in its efforts to keep its economy afloat and meet the basic needs of Cubans.

Last year, because of limited exchange opportunities; because of the lack of imports required by the sugar harvest—oil, for instance; and because of bad whether, Cuban sugar production, still a key component in the national economy, fell to just more than 4 million tons, which is much lower than the 7 million tons produced during the previous harvest. This drastic drop in production not only caused the country to stop receiving more than $400 million a year amid an already difficult situation, but it also created difficulties in distributing sugar among the people, who were already facing many other difficulties in the January-March period in terms of delivery dates, although, ultimately, distribution was achieved as planned.

The lack of raw materials affected not only the sugar industry, but also the agriculture sector in which tuber and vegetable production declined. The shortage of agricultural produce was highly visible in terms of the supply of these products in this period. If these examples, among others, are combined with the trade transactions with other countries which Washington's embassies and special services have tried to wreck—for example, the purchase of Asian cooking oil to meet first-quarter needs—then we get a sad idea of what is going on in this Caribbean country. Should we want to expand on this a bit more, we would have to remember the painful path travelled by Cuba in Latin America to buy powdered milk for newborn babies, because suppliers feared White House retaliation or because some ships dropped their loads in ports of other Caribbean nations. If those ships had docked in Cuban ports with the powdered milk on board, they could be severely penalized upon their arrival in U.S. ports because of provisions in the Torricelli Law.

Some day, when details of how Cuban life was affected by the U.S. blockade, and when the information blockade and distortions no longer cloud the island's achievements, reality will easily win out over fantasy. Meanwhile, Cuba shows no signs of surrendering; although life goes on very much affected by difficulties primarily caused by the blockade, we are maintaining the ironhanded notion of not sacrificing our national freedom.

DPRK Attache Extols Nuclear Energy's 'Peaceful Purposes'

FL2204152594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Colonel Kim Hwi-paek, military attache of the DPRK Embassy in Cuba, held a news conference on the occasion of the upcoming commemoration, on 25 April, of the 62d anniversary of the creation of the DPRK Army. The diplomat stressed the efforts conducted in the last 62 years to develop and strengthen the Armed Forces of the DPRK, which resulted in victorious outcomes in two wars. The official affirmed that today the army, with a high degree of technology, defends the cause of revolution and socialism.

[Begin Kim recording] Our People's Army has experienced guerrilla and conventional warfare since its creation. These arduous and long struggles resulted in valuable combat experience. Our People's Army is also contributing significantly to building a socialist economy. Many commemorative projects have been erected by our army in the DPRK. [end recording]

Colonel Kim Hwi-paek pointed out that the People's Army is currently engaged in increasing its combat readiness in the face of threatening actions by the United States and South Korea, which have used the issue of the alleged production of nuclear weapons to deploy missiles and conduct military exercises.

[Begin Kim recording] We have no need to produce nuclear weapons in the DPRK. Our nuclear efforts are only aimed at developing the socialist economy and nuclear energy is being used only for peaceful purposes. [end recording]

The Korean official spoke of the tense situation in the Korean peninsula arising from the U.S. attitude and pointed out that his government is as ready for talks as for war.

Council of State Honors French Politburo Member

FL2304172394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] At the instigation of the Cuban Workers Federation, CTC, the Council of State presented the Order of Lazaro Pena, First Degree, to Louis Vianet, secretary general of the General Confederation of Labor, CGT, and a member of the Politburo of the French Communist Party. As an expression of the acknowledgement by Cuba's workers and people of his contributions within the CGT toward friendship and solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, said Pedro Ross Leal, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and secretary general of the CTC, may this order be proof of our friendship and our respect.

This morning, Vianet and the delegation of French labor leaders accompanying him toured economic centers in Guines Municipality, Havana Province. At the Blas Roca Calderio UBPC [Basic Cooperative Production Unit], they donated 120,000 francs to the needs of Cuba's workers. With the check, they presented the CGT emblem, explaining that its two hands represent unity, also, in the French and Cuban workers' struggle against the Yankee blockade.

The delegation attended the ceremony on Lenin Hill in Regla Municipality, Havana City Province, on the occasion of the anniversary of Lenin's birth—the first ceremony to be held in the city of Havana in commemoration of 1 May.

Vianet is at this moment holding a news conference on the situation of workers in France and on the international workers movement.

Council of State Endorses 7 New Ministries

FL2204115794 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1102 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Council of State's Decree Law 147, approved on 21 April and endorsed [refrendado] by Comrade Fidel Castro, establishes a total of 27 ministries and five institutes to constitute henceforth the central administration of the state. The Council of State decree also creates ministries for new organizations or those experiencing name changes.

These new ministries and their respective ministers are: Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin, Ministry of Science, Technology, and the Environment; Antonio Rodriguez Maurell, Ministry of Economy and Planning; Jose Luis Rodriguez Garcia, Ministry of Finances and Prices; Ignacio Gonzalez Planas, Ministry of Metallurgy and Electronics Industry; Francisco Linares Calvo, Ministry of Labor and Social Security; Osmany Cienfuegos Gorriaran, Ministry of Tourism; and Ernesto Melendez Bachs, Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation.

Officials relieved because of the elimination of their organizations are: Sonia Rodriguez Cardona, minister president of the State Committee for Technical and Material Supply; Fidel Vascos Gonzalez, minister president of the State Committee for Statistics; Ramon Darias Rodes, minister president of the State Committee for Standardization; Arturo Guzman Pascual, minister president of the State Committee for Prices; Samuel Savariego Capuano, president of the National Automated Systems and Computing Technology Institute; and Rafael Sed Perez, president of the National Tourism Institute.

Commentary Views New Ministries

FL2204135494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Apr 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] The Council of State decree published in GRANMA responds to Cuba's current and future needs. It is basically a matter of having the necessary ministries and organizations and eliminating superfluity from the administrative apparatus. What was adopted, following an analysis of our realities, is what is needed today in a sovereign decision that reflects the people's political and technical will. What is sought with this measure, in short, is to begin to shape a more agile, operational, expedient, and skilled central state administration.

This measure has nothing to do with prevailing neoliberal guidelines that ask Third World countries to cannibalize the state to benefit an idyllically conceived and managed free enterprise supposedly beyond class interests, multinationals, and global hegemonic hubs of power.

The goal of the reorganization of our central administrative bodies is to improve the operation of a state which responds to the interests of the majority with a clear and specific understanding of the interests it serves, which are none other than those of the working people. It is obvious that if one of the basic priorities of the specific reality we face is to stimulate the economy and boost efficiency, the Ministries of Economy and Planning and of Finances and Prices have to absorb certain organizations and institutions linked to those priority activities.

The same is happening with another priority activity of our economy, tourism. If, because of current circumstances and in an irreversible manner, we have to rely on foreign investment under the conditions established by the Cuban state, including economic cooperation, this endeavor has to have a dynamic and efficient ministry to steer this effort.

In essence, the reorganization of the bodies of the state's central administration is a measure which responds to the demands of today's reality, the needs we have to face in the special period in a world we cannot change and into which we have to incorporate ourselves in terms of trade, finance, and certain economic relations, without relinquishing our cardinal principles and the altruistic goals of our sociopolitical project.

Two Council of Ministers Vice Presidents Relieved of Posts

FL2204184694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Council of State decree on the composition the new Council of Ministers points out that two Council of Ministers vice presidents have been released from their posts. They are Ramiro Valdez Menendez and Joel Domenech Benitez.

The remaining ministries [and institutes] will retain all attributions and functions lawfully assigned to them. These ministries are: Sugar Industry, Agriculture, Foreign Trade, Domestic Trade, Communications, Culture, Education, Higher Education, Revolutionary Armed Forces, Food Industry, Construction Materials Industry, Fish Industry, Interior, Justice, Foreign Relations, Public Health, and Transportation, as well as the Cuban Civil Aeronautics Institute; Cuban Radio and Television Institute; the Cuban Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute; the Cuban Hydraulic Resources Institute; and the Cuban State Reserves Institute.

Raul Castro Inaugurates Fish Farm in Las Tunas

FL2204132094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has inaugurated the Army's first fish farm complex in Las Tunas Province. The complex has the capacity to breed several million freshwater fish.

Speaks at Eastern Army Fish Farm Opening

FL2304142394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Statements by Army General Raul Castro Ruz during the inauguration of the Eastern Army's fish farming center in Las Tunas Province; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified announcer] After hearing a detailed report by Colonel Jose Ramon Jimenez, head of the General Staff of the Defense Council in Las Tunas, on the characteristics of the project, Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, toured areas of the new installation. He was accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, head of the Eastern Army.

After completing his tour of the facilities, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba highlighted the significance of the development of fish farming in our country and its contribution to the nutrition of the people.

[Castro] On a water tank not far from here, there is a sign that reads: Under our conditions of the special period, beans are as valuable as cannon. This is a statement I once made and later rectified by saying: At this moment, beans are more valuable than cannon. Today, as many of you saw, I used a marker to add to the sign: and fish farming, which is the most inexpensive way of obtaining a magnificent source of protein for our people and our Armed Forces. I hope the Eastern Army, as in other activities, will be the vanguard in fish farming and in fraternal emulation among Army units.

[Unidentified announcer] Gen. Raul Castro once again took advantage of the opportunity to congratulate the Eastern Army on the occasion of its 33d anniversary.

[Castro] Here in Las Tunas, in this very regiment, and with the inauguration of this important fish farming center, on my behalf and on behalf of my companions Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, Ramon Espinosa, head of the Eastern Army, and of the commander in chief, once again I congratulate the Eastern Army. [passage omitted]

Communications Official on Telephone Service

FL2204150694

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1155 GMT on 22 April carries an eight-minute interview with Agustin Lopez Gomez, secretary general of the Communications Workers Union, by Radio Rebelde General Manager Bienvenido Rojas.

Lopez points out that as a result of the workers' assemblies process, there is an increased awareness among workers of the importance of maintenance, given the age and origin of the equipment. Maintenance is necesesary to minimize technical difficulties and improve service.

Lopez adds that the work is extensive and improvement is not readily seen. With regard to ties with foreign companies, Lopez states: "We understand that the government is making some type of effort on this. However, we are working to reshape the managerial organization of the communications systems. We have begun by reorganizing the National Telephone Service: in other words, the creation of a national enterprise, which is to be followed by the same with the postal, telegraph, radio, and television systems."

Lopez adds: "The telephone system was fragmented into about 15 enterprises, and now there is only one, at the national level."

Commentary Addresses Sugar Industry Goals, Woes

PA2204180594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Commentary by Miguel Angel de la Guardia; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The first report on the achievements of oil production has already been issued with the end of the first quarter of 1994, a quarter that marked the beginning of a special period. The report indicated that oil production exceeded forecasts by 12 percent; that is, crude oil production reached more than 300,000 tons. Now, eyes are turning toward the country's main industry, namely the sugar industry, which was surrounded by a high-pitched campaign to exceed last year's output, which is comparable to the output of 1944, when sugar was sold at two and one-half cents per pound.

Last year, the revolutionary government set out to significantly increase sugar production, which was already set at more than 6 million tons annually. Sugar production amounted to 4.2 million tons in 1993. The country expects to produce at least 100,000 to 200,000 tons more this year, which is a very difficult task because of the very adverse condition of the industry, which has been affected by an acute lack of fertilizers, transportation, fuels, and herbicides—usually sprayed in a short period of time thanks to agricultural aviation.

The tasks so far accomplished in the industry, due to the overwhelming support of its workers and reserves, were truly heroic, especially when we take into consideration that mechanical sugar harvesters were affected by the aforementioned situation. The legendary brigades of sugarcane cutters [macheteros], who filled Cuban fields with routine deeds as though they were a true fighting army, are currently fused to the ground, fighting, machete in hand, with the same patriotic fervor displayed by our founding fathers last century.

The Cuban people and government are relying on these men, because they inspired admiration in many previous harvest seasons. We are also relying on the men of the sugar industry, those who operate and maintain sugar mill equipment and those who work in the laboratories and offices, who are also doing the best they can. This harvest battle has the connotation of a memorable campaign within the great epic that the Cuban people are staging at the most decisive time of their beautiful history. In its determination to accomplish production goals and to surpass them as much as possible, the Cuban Sugar Industry Ministry announced that the harvest season will last a little bit longer this year; it will be extended until late May.

In addition, some sugar mills will continue to operate until June at the latest. After that date, sugarcane production plummets so much that it is a mistake to sacrifice sugar fields that can continue to yield crops to ensure that they will yield more next year. The preparatory tasks for the next sugarcane harvest started earlier this year. We can guarantee that in 1995 production in this vital Cuban industry will continue to increase.

Roundup of Economic Activity

FL2204165094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 14 and 22 April.

Radio Reloj at 1930 GMT on 14 April reports that the El Cobre quarry has produced over 670 tons of product for export, out of a planned 500 tons for the first quarter of 1993. El Cobre is expected to meet its annual goal of 1,800 tons since the copper-processing plant underwent extensive maintenance.

Reloj adds at 1940 GMT that Villa Clara Province has taken in 500,000 pesos in self-employment license fees.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 15 April reports that this year approximately 2,000 rooms in 15 installations dedicated to international tourism will receive furniture worth more than $7 million produced by the light industry union. This contribution will be supplemented by mattresses and lamps, which used to be purchased abroad. The furniture factory commitment this year is aimed at refurbishing the (Cohiba), Habana Libre, Guitart, and El Viejo y el Mar hotels in Havana. The Cayo Guillermo Cabin in Ciego de Avila and the Cuatro Vientos in Camaguey will also receive furniture. Despite material limitations, this Ministry of Light Industry factory produced 42,000 units last year to furnish other important centers; the plant is also operating jointly with Dominican capital to produce wicker furniture for Cubanacan.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 15 April reports that in order to conduct a vaccination campaign, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has purchased 500,000 doses of the meningitis vaccine made by the Finlay Institute.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0000 GMT on 16 April report that members of the Lazaro Pena contingent in Havana salute workers day. In the past harvest, this contingent was able to do only 25 percent of its task, because of damages caused by the storm of the century. One year later they were able to harvest 56 caballerias of tobacco. According to specialists, this has been a good year for crops and the workers have responded with discipline and dedication.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 15 April reports that Venezuelan travel groups will bring more than 9,000 people to Cuba this year. According to company officials, this is a 20-percent increase over 1993.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 18 April reports that national egg production in the first quarter of 1994 was 130 million.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 18 April reports that in Matanzas Province 500 tons of jute fiber have been processed during the first quarter of 1994—100 tons more than in the first quarter of 1993. Jute planting at the Eladio Hernandez Leon Complex is behind schedule because of a work force deficit.

Radio Reloj at 1930 GMT on 18 April reports that volunteer cane cutters from the Cuban Workers Federation have fulfilled their objectives during the current harvest and that they will remain in the fields until the conclusion of operations in Camaguey. The Jesus Suarez Gallol column, which groups these volunteers, has cut 57 million arrobas of cane since the beginning of the harvest. This column, with a brigade of approximately 3,000 volunteers, is organized in 92 groups. After Havana, Camaguey is the second province in the country declared to have a millionaire status in manual cutting of sugarcane.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 20 April reports that Santiago de Cuba has received directly from Malaga, Spain, a donation from the Jose Marti solidarity group consisting of more than two tons of diverse medical supplies and equipment, as well as a donation of industrial oil sent by a Spanish coordinating group for solidarity with Latin America.

Tele Rebelde Network at 0000 GMT on 21 April reports that in Moa, Holguin, a 3.5-km-long oil pipeline built at a cost of $4 million is near completion. The 24-inch pipeline will make it possible to off- load 55 tons of oil in 30 hours, thus significantly reducing the nickel industry's oil freight costs.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 19 April reports that Matanzas Province's spring planting goal is 507 caballerias in the first half of the year. Currently, only 150 caballerias have been planted.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 22 April reports that this year's tobacco harvest in Pinar del Rio is already better than last year—23 million poles have already been gathered. The province is about to reach its 1994 goal of harvesting 300,000 quintals—25,000 quintals more than in 1993. The tobacco industry provides $100 million to Cuba; 70 percent of the tobacco comes from this province.

Radio Reloj at 1434 GMT on 22 April reports that in Granma Province, at a quarry in Jiguani Municipality, a new type of marble called "Rosado del Rio" with great sales potential is being quarried and will be ready for marketing this month.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 22 April reports that the Guanabo Industrial Complex in Havana produced 60 train-buses in 1993; this year's goal is to produce 200 of these 300-passenger buses.

Aruba

'Crisis Cabinet' May Be Set Up To Organize Elections

BR2204151694 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 19 April 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Aruba Opposition Wants to Participate in Crisis Cabinet"]

[Excerpts] Rotterdam, 19 Apr—A so-called "crisis cabinet" may be formed in Aruba to adopt a number of emergency measures in the financial and economic domain and organize new elections. Yesterday [18 April], opposition leader H. Eman said that he was prepared to look into the possibility of working together with the MEP [People's Electoral Movement] of Prime Minister N. Oduber.

On Sunday evening [17 April], Oduber let it be known that his second cabinet has fallen and that he now intended to lose no time in exploring the possibility of forming a broad coalition with AVP [Aruban People's Party] leader Eman. Oduber said that he no longer had any confidence in his two small coalition partners, the PPA [Aruban Patriotic Party] and ADN [National Democratic Union], each of which had one seat in the parliament. The second Oduber cabinet, which only had the support of 11 out of 21 seats in parliament, lasted for approximately one year. Together, the MEP and AVP have 18 seats.

In a telephone conversation with NRC HANDELSBLAD, Eman said he was demanding early elections as a precondition for any possible cooperation with Oduber. A broad coalition between the two major parties that rode out the entire parliamentary session until the elections in 1997 was, he considered, a "station we have already passed." [passage omitted]

On Sunday, however, the cabinet crumbled. Differences of opinion regarding financial and economic policy and especially a severe round of cuts for the government were the cause. Political observers in Oranjestad believe that the reason for the cabinet crisis was a row about the dismissal of the director of a housing association, aggravated by the subsequent nomination to that position of a future son-in-law of ADN Parliamentarian Charo Kelly.

If the social plan of his AVP is implemented for the main part, then after early elections opposition leader Eman could bear the responsibility of government together with the MEP. The main thrust of the social plan involves the more honest distribution of income in Aruba, "the richest country in the Caribbean region." According to the plan, the payments made to pensioners and the recipients of benefits had to be increased. [passage omitted]

"If a provisional crisis cabinet is formed, then the AVP will prove flexible," said Eman, who is not demanding the premiership although his party is slightly larger in terms of the number of votes than that led by Oduber. "That will only become an issue when the Aruban electorate has once again voted and we know how the division of power looks," he said.

On Sunday evening [17 April], Oduber regretted that his second cabinet had made such little progress with financial and administrative reorganization. "The present coalition has never known peace and stability; there has always been a lack of cooperation." Previously, he had criticized the "patronage policy" of the small parties, i.e., the appointment of friends to governmental or semi-governmental posts. "We have made mistakes and they must be rectified," he said in November, in an interview with NRC HANDELSBLAD. "Too many officials have been appointed and too much tax liability has been imposed in too short a time."

Dominican Republic

UNHCR Representative on Haitian Occupation Status

PA2404173794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP)—UNHCR representative Juan Manuel Castro, a Peruvian national, has said talks with the group of 102 Haitians who are occupying the offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Dominican Republic have been unsuccessful up to now.

The Haitians, 50 men, 20 women, and 32 children, occupied the UNHCR offices in downtown Santo Domingo on Friday to demand that they be granted refugee status.

Castro told the media that the talks "have been unsuccessful, and we do not know what their intentions are. F. Castro visited the Haitians who are occupying the UNHCR offices today and ordered they be given more food and medicine.

The Dominican police have had the block where the UNHCR offices are located surrounded since Friday, but there has been no official statement from the government of President Joaquin Balaguer.

Haiti

Delegation of 18 Jan Senators Meets With Military

FL2204190094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 April, a delegation of the parliamentarians elected on 18 January 1993, accompanied by Senator Bernard Sansaricq, met with Haitian military authorities at the Army's General Headquarters.

The senators in this delegation were: Osny Eugene, Romel Manigat, Margareth Martin, Amos Andre, and Gabriel Ancion. The issues discussed during this meeting are so far unknown.

Pro-Aristide Senators Present Amnesty Bill

FL2204195594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] On 21 April in Port-au-Prince, Haitian Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis presented a bill granting amnesty to the authors and accomplices of the coup d'etat that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991. Jean-Louis' presentation, accompanied by about 10 other senators, took place in a hotel of the capital in the presence of representatives of the UN secretary general's Friendly Four countries. The following is a report by Pierre Jerome Richard:

[Begin recording] [Richard] "The senators who are part of the normal Senate met the morning of 21 April at the Christopher Hotel to propose an amnesty law for the benefit of those who participated in the 30 September [1991] coup d'etat, according to the senators' report to the press. Several foreign diplomats, including Eric Falt, UN spokesman for Haiti; (Mrs. Elza Ocho Campe), Venezuelan charge d'affaires; (Francis Fillol), Canadian ambassador; and [U.S. Ambassador] William Lacy Swing were present at the ceremony, which began at about 1130. Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis opened the ceremony. He thanked all the diplomats and members of the press who were present. In the opinion of Senator Jean-Louis, this proposal is the key to unblocking the country's crisis. Sen. Martinez describes the contents of this proposal:"

[Martinez] Considering that the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat, which involved the forced departure of the president of the Republic, is an act provided for and punishable by law, and this event gave rise to many violations that necessarily took on a political character.

Considering that the legislative power lays down laws on all subjects of public interest, the Senate has voted the following law:

Article 1. The authors and accomplices of the 29-30 September 1991 coup, which entailed the departure of the president of the Republic, are granted amnesty.

Article. 2. This amnesty law applies to all violations ensuing from the coup d'etat, ranging from 29-30 September 1991 to the date of promulgation of this amnesty law.

Article. 3. Regarding the rights of third parties, the victims of the acts excused by this law will have recourse to a special compensation fund that will be created for that purpose.

Article. 4. This law will be published and executed at the behest of the ministers of justice and the interior in the areas that respectively concern them.

[Richard] "Sen. Jean-Louis hopes the international community will continue helping the Haitian people in their struggle for democracy." [passage omitted]

"This proposal, which was supported by 13 out of 17 senators, was adopted by senators from many blocs within the Senate. Among those who voted for this law are Julio Larosiliere, Herard Pauyo, Turneb Delpe, and Clark Parent. At the conclusion of the meeting, we noted the presence of [former] Sen. Reynold Georges and Sen. Jacques Rony Mondestin, who were going to bring their support to the plan.

"During the ceremony, Sen. Jean-Louis asked everyone present to sing the country's national anthemn. This is how the ceremony ended, with Sen. Jean-Louis, as master of ceremonies, inviting the guests to partake of refreshments. Many of the participants took advantage of the refreshments to give their opinions. Among them was foreign diplomat Eric Falt:"

[Falt] We have been in a deadlock for several months. It is a proposal aimed at getting out of the current crisis. We can congratulate ourselves on that. It is a step in the right direction. Regarding the rest, it is first and foremost a Haitian issue. [words indistinct] but as a general rule, we think it is a step in the right direction that could unblock the crisis.

[Richard] "The host, Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis, asked the press to help him popularize the bill. The senator also said he would take steps within the Chamber of Deputies to see if it would subscribe to this proposal in the future. Pierre Jerome Richard for Signal FM." [end recording]

Deputy Reacts to Amnesty Bill

FL2204232994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Interview with Deputy Evans Beaubrun by correspondent Clarence Renois; place not given—live]

[Text] [Renois] Let us reconsider the amnesty bill which was presented on 21 April by approximately 12 or 13 senators of the Republic in a hotel in Port-au-Prince in the presence of members of the diplomatic corps. Our guest, Deputy Evans Beaubrun, himself an author of an amnesty bill that has been submitted to the lower chamber, will comment on and respond to the Senate initiative.

Deputy Beaubrun, good morning! You are the author of an amnesty bill. How does your bill differ from the senators' bill; how does it resemble theirs?

[Beaubrun] The two proposals differ on the point that the one from the senators is a special law, which in principle imposes certain norms on the law, as we perceive law; while mine is an amendment to the law already in effect, which provides for a solution.

[Renois] Another question, Deputy Beaubrun, what are the chances the senators will accept this bill? What are the possibilities that the Chamber of Deputies will vote on it in the event the situation normalizes in the Senate?

[Beaubrun] I must tell you, Clarence, that this bill is not from the Senate of the Republic. A group of deputies presented this bill, which was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies on 8 October 1993, two weeks after I submitted my first bill. I must tell you that that bill was signed by Pierre Simon Georges, Frantz Robert Monde, Walto Augustin, Beauge Yves Pericles, Joseph Benoit Laguerre, Olipcial Regis, Lonnes Joseph, Rita Frederic Moncoeur, and Lionel Bouzi.

The senators simply modified the bill by withdrawing certain considerations and added two new considerations. Therefore, it is not a draft of law belonging to the Senate of the Republic. They are only exhuming a draft that was the subject of many discussions...

[Renois] Do you mean that this draft, since it has already been prepared by the deputies, has a greater chance of passing because Frantz Robert Monde is the current president of the Chamber of Deputies?

[Beaubrun] That is not what I mean. I mean this draft has some serious, very big problems. The law must be general, and this law concerns a group of citizens. It is far from being general. Furthermore, the law must look to the future. The law is for the future. This law does not look to the future at all.

[Renois] Have you reproached the senators for not mentioning the financial aspects—because you have asked for financial amnesty, I believe, in your draft?

[Beaubrun] I am saying that this time, the senators have gone beyond the scope of this amnesty. That is one of the major problems with this draft. This draft, all things considered, presents some imbroglios. Although those senators say they are opposed to a large amnesty, those same senators say in Article 2: This amnesty extends to all offenses following the coup d'etat. When they say all offenses, stealing is also included in the offenses after the coup d'etat; the nonpayment of taxes could be considered an offense of the coup-d'etat, just to name two. It is a very extended text. Whatever offenses could be linked to the coup d'etat are covered by this amnesty.

[Renois] ....are forgiven by this amnesty. Last question, Deputy Beaubrun. Regarding the steps taken by the Chamber of Deputies—I am referring to the consultations begun with the military and other institutions, even the parliamentary plan voted by yourself, as well as the political demands that are being made today for the application of Article 149—is this draft still appropriate or even up to date?

[Beaubrun] Personally, I still believe this draft is appropriate and up to date. The procedure, however, is faulty because the Senate has used it as a political weapon. I understand that the Senate is a political institution. The parliament has two institutions: the political institution, which is the Senate; and the working institution, which is the Chamber of Deputies. But I believe the Senate went a little too far. The Senate made it a completely political matter. Eleven senators were to vote and present this draft to the international community and to the press. Why did they not vote on this law? This procedure prevents us deputies from rationally, legally examining this text. Why did they not vote? Because this is a petition. We cannot receive a petition from the Senate. We can receive a petition from a citizen or from any segment of the city or the nation. But from the Senate, we can receive a resolution....

[Renois] What makes you say this initiative is a petition, not a resolution?

[Beaubrun] It is a petition. A resolution is voted on article by article. A draft is voted on article by article. When it is a petition, it is presented with the signatures of so-and-so. For instance, I understand 11 senators signed this text, and that they are going to ask other senators to countersign. Then they will ask the deputies to sign this text. I am saying it is a political approach, not a parliamentary approach.

[Renois] Deputy Beaubrun, thank you for answering our questions.

Sedena Rejects Chiapas Human Rights Charges

PA2304191094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] The Secretariat of National Defense [Sedena] has determined there the Mexican Army is not responsible for the alleged 127 cases of human rights violations reported by the nongovernmental organization All Rights For All [Todos los Derechos para Todos], which accused soldiers of committing abuses in Chiapas. The following is the full text of Sedena Bulletin No. 35:

In previous communiques concerning the conflict in Chiapas, this secretariat has reported to the public that it received notification of 127 complaints of alleged human rights violations in the aforementioned state by the nongovernmental organization All Rights For All, believed to have been carried out by soldiers.

The Office of Complaints and Citizens' Attention has investigated and was able to resolve all of them, without finding any responsibility on the part of military personnel. During the process, which lasted three months, the cases were progressively clarified, as follows: 80 in the month of February, 17 in the month of March, 30 in the month of April, totalling 127.

Upon providing the public with this information, Sedena reiterates its determination to get to the bottom of every accusation, maintaining its conduct in accordance with the law.

Peace Commissioner: EZLN 'Troops' Return Home

PA2204212594 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 2015 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by Jaime Guerrero from the "Meridian" newscast]

[Text] Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis confirmed that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] will continue its consultation process with the Indian communities before returning to the reconciliation dialogue.

Camacho Solis said that with the return of a portion of the EZLN troops to their communities, the tension in Chiapas will decrease and a clear course in favor of the resumption of the talks is marked. Thursday night, the EZLN Command reported that a portion of its members would return to their places of origin. Moreover, the EZLN will continue with its consultation process to return to the reconciliation dialogue. Camacho Solis said the EZLN is responding to the messages for peace made by the government and the civilian society.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] I believe it is good news for the country to know the EZLN is responding to these actions with actions that set a very clear course in favor of the resumption of the talks. [end recording]

The peace commissioner met with President Carlos Salinas and with Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez at noon. Today, members of the State Committee of Indian and Peasant Organizations of Chiapas, who invaded lands in the state, agreed to contribute to the peace process in Chiapas.

Guerrillas Sent Home as Peace Gesture

PA2204200094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1803 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpts] San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 22 Apr (EFE)—The Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] has ordered hundreds of Indian guerrillas to return to their communities tomorrow as a peace gesture. The EZLN's decision to "call off the red alert" among its troops starting tomorrow and to resume consultations within the rank-and-file was announced in a communique released today in San Cristobal de las Casas.

The communique says that "if the favorable climate for a dialogue continues," the EZLN will resume consultations with its rank-and-file on the agreements negotiated with the Mexican Government in late February—agreements outlining pacification plans for Chiapas. "The EZLN affirms its desire for a political response to the just demands that keep the fire of its struggle alive. The EZLN continues to demand liberty, justice, and democracy for all Mexicans." [passage omitted]

In the communique, the EZLN acknowledges the "honest and determined" efforts of Manuel Camacho Solis, mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz, and the civilian society to "make reason prevail over the use of force" and to meet the demands of the Indians. The EZLN is also pleased with the release of the 16 people who had been held since January under false charges that they were Zapatists. The EZLN "interprets this as a good sign that talks for a fair and respectable peace should be resumed."

In addition, "Subcommander Marcos," the Zapatists' mysterious ideological leader, issued a communique severely criticizing those who have slandered his armed movement and who have scorned the rebels' poverty. The subcommander berated and described as "stupid" the opinions of several analysts who said the EZLN had delayed the consultations to have the peace talks postponed and to expand the armed conflict. [passage omitted]

Camacho Expects 'Significant Agreements' With EZLN

PA2204154394 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis is in Chiapas. He says he will not meet with PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo, that the dialogue with the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] is still open, and that significant agreements could be reached soon.

Messages of concurrence between the EZLN and the government continue to be released. This will enable an announcement of progress in the Chiapas peace accords very soon, Camacho Solis said.

[Begin Camacho recording] Through the mediator, I have received an EZLN communique from from which I am able to report the following:

1) the EZLN's clear determination to maintain a cease-fire;
2) the certainty that channels of dialogue with the EZLN are fully open; and
3) the EZLN's awareness that the government has issued messages of harmony backed by evidence in the past few days.

This prompts us to reactivate this form of communication, which has proved so effective. [end recording]

Asked on whether he would meet with PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo, who initiated his political campaign in this state, Camacho said this:

[Begin Camacho recording] It is also important for the commissioner to remain politically impartial, so the negotiations can reflect a national consensus rather than the position of one, two, or three political forces. [end recording]

Camacho said that he will continue to seek the consensus of all political forces in the country regarding the Chiapas conflict and that the solution to the problem must come from a true national agreement.

Salinas Names Inquiry Commission Into Colosio Death

PA2204221994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced the creation of a commission of citizens, including some who are critical of or opposed to the government, to help investigate the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]. In a brief statement made at the Vicente Guerrero Hall of the Los Pinos residence, the president noted that Mexico wants to know the truth.

[Begin Salinas recording] At the same time, it is necessary to avoid a climate of mutual suspicion. Any inquiry is difficult; it takes time. We cannot, however, accept the fostering of a climate of doubt. We are determined to open the investigation so that citizens of the highest professional quality can participate. [end recording]

The commission will comprise the following people: Carlos Payan, newsman and LA JORNADA daily editor; (Fernando Gomez Montt), National Action Party federal deputy and chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Justice Committee; Leonel Godoy, former Michoacan State attorney general, former deputy of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, and special prosecutor in the Obando and Hill case; lawyer (Agustin Santamarina); and Agustin Basabe, PRI deputy for Nuevo Leon State and former Colosio adviser. The president thanked these citizens for their willingness to participate in the task, which he described as delicate. He added that the Colosio Riojas family welcomes their participation.

Three-Part Article Views Zedillo Candidacy

First Part of Article

PA2304220094 Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 19 Apr 94 p 7a

[First of three-part article by "the people's lawyer" from the "Fricasse" column: "Zedillo's Men"]

[Text] Before beginning, my dear readers, I would like to make a suggestion. I want you to clip and save the three articles that will appear in this space because they could serve as reference material in the future.

Well, if pity and votes favor him (as they most probably will), Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon will become president of Mexico. Those who ponder this possibility also wonder: What team of men will Zedillo choose to govern this country?

The team selected by the candidate will be very important because the profile, personality, and level that the government will attain depends on its members and their characteristics and will determine the solutions they will seek for the numerous problems afflicting our country.

It is for the purpose of satisfying this curiosity that this country lawyer of yours will reveal in the following three articles the names of those who will make up the government team.

They are divided into three groups. We also divided our work into three installments in keeping with the belief that there are—or will be—three types of collaborators in the Zedillo administration:

1. Salinists who are fond of (and friends with) Zedillo.
2. Colosists who are close to Zedillo.
3. Zedillists by origin, from the north [los zedillistas de origen, de hueso colorado].

Let us begin our work with the chapter on the Salinists who are fond of Zedillo. But before we do that, to help you get the picture, let us have a little history on Dr. Zedillo's background and the people with whom he has worked.

The former secretary of public education graduated as an economist from the Instituto Politecnico Nacional, IPN, and earned master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Yale University. He taught at IPN and the Colegio de Mexico (1978-80), as did Jaime Serra Puche, Manuel Camacho Solis, and Jose Cordoba Montayo.

In terms of work experience, Zedillo played a prominent role at Banco de Mexico as head of Ficorca [expansion unknown], where he established strong ties with Miguel Mancera. Carlos Mancera Corcuera, who serves as coordinator of Zedillo's advisers, is Miguel Mancera's son. From there, Zedillo moved to the Secretariat of Programming and Budget as deputy secretary under Pedro Aspe, and in 1988 he move up to secretary when Salinas assumed the presidency.

In all these posts Zedillo developed important relationships, but perhaps the most important was with "Kingmaker" [previous word in English] Jose Maria Cordoba Montoya, adviser to President Salinas, who had Colosio nominated first, then his favorite, Ernesto Zedillo.

Zedillo is also a close friend of Emilio Antonio Gamboa Patron, current secretary of communications and transport, (to give you an idea of their relationship) with whom he spent the end of the year in Acapulco along with Governor (and friend) Ruben Figueroa Alcocer.

Commerce Secretary Jaime Jose Serra Puche is also close to Dr. Zedillo. The two share economic outlooks and international links created by NAFTA. The recent appointment of Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza as secretary general of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and campaign coordinator shows that Dr. Zedillo trusts this man.

Another group of Salinists fond of Zedillo has its origins at Banco de Mexico. You should know that Zedillo owes everything to Governor Miguel Mancera for granting him a scholarship and for employing him. Zedillo belongs to the Grupo Banco de Mexico, the cradle of a number of important friendships.

The other group of Zedillo friends is at IPN and branches out into the Secretariat of Communications, because the links between the IPN and this secretariat are no secret.

Most prominent among Zedillo's friends at Grupo Banco de Mexico (to which Miguel de la Madrid and his pupil, Carlos Salinas, also belong) is Guillermo "Memo" Ortiz Martinez, our companero at the military school and current deputy secretary of finance.

Francisco Gil Diaz, the implacable right hand of Dr. Pedro Aspe at the Finance Secretariat, is also a friend of Zedillo. Two governors are among this group of Zedillo friends: Patricio Chirinos of Veracruz and Otto Granados of Aguascalientes. It is obvious that Salinists who are now in office have a good chance of keeping their jobs or moving to other offices at the same level.

Tomorrow we will give you a list of the Colosists who support Zedillo, as well as an idea of their possible destination. As Hitchcock would say: "Do not miss it!"

Second Part of Article

PA2304220394 Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 20 Apr 94 p 7a

[Second of three-part article by "the people's lawyer" from the "Fricasse" column: "Zedillo's Men"]

[Text] A promise is a promise, so we will continue to talk about the men who will make up Zedillo's team. Yesterday we commented on the members of his team who are associates of Salinas and Zedillo. At this time we will discuss the associates of Zedillo and Colosio, the so-called "Orphans of the Tijuana Tragedy."

First, however, we must make a clarification. The existence of such a group should surprise no one because Colosio and Zedillo worked together. They were not rivals. If the new candidate had been Camacho (who was assassinated with Colosio, only politically), the story would have been different. In addition, let us keep in mind that Zedillo, in his 29 March speech accepting the candidacy, mentioned Colosio some 30 times. Throughout, his speech carried a message of continuity.

Enter Sonora-born Manlio Fabio Beltrones, another of Zedillo's men. By reason of his birthplace and political inclination, Beltrones hitched his carriage to that of his countryman, Colosio, to the extent that he, Beltrones, appointed Colosio's father in his state cabinet. Perhaps for his relationship with Colosio, Cordoba selected Beltrones to present Zedillo as the new candidate. It was said at a dinner that Zedillo and Beltrones presented a united front against the followers of Colosio who had proposed Lievano Saenz to be the coordinator of Zedillo's campaign.

Zedillo's list includes Mario Luis Fuentes, the strongest link between Colosio and Zedillo, and Victor Manuel Palma Cesar, Zedillo's deputy coordinator for Colosio's campaign and who is believed to be appointed senator for the State of Morelos.

Guillermo Hopkins Gamez was born in Magdalena de Kino, Sonora. Politically speaking, he was very, very close to Colosio. Hopkins holds a degree in political science from the Ibero-American University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado. He held the position of adviser to the Chief Clerk from 1987 to 1988 and worked in the planning and budget areas in the Sonora State Government. He was deputy logistics coordinator for the PRI campaign under coordinator Zedillo. It has been said he stands a good chance of becoming senator for Sonora and even governor of the state.

Another of Zedillo's men and Colosio's associates is Andres Marco Antonio Bernal Gutierrez, also Tamaulipas-born, who was president of the SEDESOL [Social Development Secretariat] National Solidarity Institute during 1992 and 1993 under Colosio and deputy planning coordinator for the PRI campaign under Zedillo.

As for Lievano Saenz, we know that prior to the campaign, he held the post of chief clerk at SEDESOL and that he was social communications spokesman for the PRI presidential campaign. He could become senator for Chihuahua in the future.

Nevertheless, it has been said that, among Colosio's friends, Esteban Moctezuma Barragan is one of the men closest to Zedillo. He holds a degree in law and economics from National Autonomous University of Mexico, a master's degree in political economy from Cambridge University, and a degree in regional development, which he obtained in Japan. In addition, Moctezuma Barragan started out at the Planning and Budget Secretariat [SPP], in the area managed by Colosio, held the post of chief clerk at SPP under Zedillo, and was Colosio's private secretary when Colosio was head of the PRI National Executive Council. He was also Deputy Secretary for Educational Planning at the Public Education Secretariat. Of all the men mentioned, he is closest to Zedillo. For this reason, it is believed that he will be appointed for a very important position.

We can say that Colosio's associates and Zedillo's associates can well be taken for one another because their political inclinations and ideologies, not only are compatible, but nearly parallel. All of them are birds of a feather. All of them are young, educated, hold master's and doctor's degrees obtained abroad, and have been following a steady political course.

By reason of mutual friendship, this group also includes Carlos Rojas, former SPP deputy secretary under Zedillo and in charge of the National Solidarity Program, as well as Francisco Labastida Ochoa, former governor of Sinaloa. Let us keep in mind that all of these people will appear in the country's political horizon for the next six-year term if Zedillo is elected president.

Third Part of Article

PA2304224194 Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 7A

[Third of three-part article by "the people's lawyer" from the Fricasse" column: "Zedillo's Men"]

[Text] We have now reached the third part in this trilogy of articles on Zedillo's team. We began with Salinas' associates, continued with Colosio's associates, and now we will introduce the most loyal Zedillo associates. This is the group that has created the most expectations because it is the closest to the candidate and the least known. Once again, these people share an impeccable university education and steady progress in the government apparatus.

For starters, there is Fausto Alzati Araiza, currently director of National Council for Science and Technology. He studied law at UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] and received a master's degree and a doctorate in political economics and government from Harvard University. He has worked in the energy sector, including Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry and Mexican Petroleum, and has served as economic adviser at National Finance, Inc., the Planning and Budget Secretariat, and Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies.

Another of Zedillo's cronies is Antonio Arguelles Diaz Gonzalez, who studied arts and economics at Stanford University at the same time that Cordoba Montoya was working toward his master's degree. Arguelles Diaz is now deputy coordinator for administration and finance of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential campaign.

Hector Morales Corrales, the federal government's spokesman in Chiapas, was Zedillo's classmate at the Instituto Politecnico Nacional. He has worked in the field of press and public relations at System for Complete Family Development, National Consumer's Institute, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, SPP [Secretariat for Planning and Budget], and SEP [Secretariat for Public Education] with Zedillo.

Miguel Antonio Estrada Meza, Zedillo's former private secretary while at SEP, has held administrative positions at this secretariat and at Baja California's Autonomous University. He graduated as a teacher from the Mexicali Teacher's School and received a degree in political science from the Baja California Autonomous University. In addition, he holds a master's degree on pedagogical discipline from California University and a doctorate in sociology from UNAM.

Another of Zedillo's cronies is Pascual Garcia Alba Idunatec. Garcia Alba, born in Hidalgo, currently holds the post of deputy secretary for educational coordination at SEP. He has a master's degree in economics from the College of Mexico and a doctorate in economics and a master's degree in arts and philosophy from Yale University.

There is also a woman, Aurora Pierdant Grunstein, who now holds the post at CONAFE [not further identified], an agency that supports SEP. She has a degree in economics from ITAM [Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico], a master's degree in planning from the Social Studies Institute in the Netherlands, and a doctorate in economic policies which she received in the United Kingdom. She distinguished herself by founding the Institute for Peasant Studies. German Andres Fernandez Aguirre is a lawyer and has held juridical positions. He is linked to Zedillo through SPP, SEP, and, particularly through the Banco de Mexico.

Fernando Solis Camara y Jimenez Camet played a significant role in Zedillo's academic development. Solis Camara has even been mentioned in connection with Zedillo's doctoral thesis. Solis Camara is an economist who graduated from Anahuac University, holds a master's degree in public policy and a doctorate in public policy from Harvard University and a master's degree in economics from Boston University.

Sonora-born Eduardo Guadalupe Almeyda Armenta, the current director of professions at SEP, graduated from UNAM's Law School. He worked as private secretary and technical secretary at SEP, the Foreign Relations Secretariat, the Chamber of Deputies, and SPP.

A very important young politician and Zedillo's crony is Carlos Mancera Corcuera, only 31 years old. He is an economist who graduated from ITAM, and he is the son of Miguel Mancera Aguayo, the first governor of Banco de Mexico. Zedillo appointed him associate director for scientific and technological policy at SEP thanks to the man's direct relationship with Mancera Aguayo. Zedillo is grateful because Mancera Aguayo helped him secure the position of economic technical adviser and a scholarship to study in the United States.

There are other Zedillo associates. Pascual Garcia Alba, a classmate at Yale; Raul Talan Ramirez, deputy secretary for education, who graduated from the Instituto Politecnico Nacional just as Zedillo did; Jose Angel Pescador, Jose Cordoba's classmate at Stanford and related to Zedillo through Cordoba; Gilberto Guevara Niebla; Olac Fuentes; Antonio Gago Huget, an education technician who joined Zedillo's group through SEP; German Fernandez Aguirre, lawyer at UNAM and Banco de Mexico; Elias Calles, Perez Correa, Juan Rebolledo, Dionisio Perez Jacome, and Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, Zedillo's liaisons with the Army, old PRI members, and certain political factions outside the PRI.

From the profile of these men, probable assistants to the probable president of the republic, we can see that the economic aspect is adequately covered by experts in the field. The good news is that we can predict that the team will be particularly sensitive toward social and educational aspects. If the vote count favors Zedillo, we will see the presidential ribbon on his chest, and in his cabinet we will see many of these names which, for the good fortune of Mexico, are not at all improvised or inexperienced.

PRD Resolution on Democratic Changes

PA2404171694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Apr 94 p 20

[Text of "resolution by the Sixth Plenary Session of the Second National Council of the Party of the Democratic Revolution," issued on 17 April 1994; place not given]

[Text] The National Council of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, [PRD] taking into consideration the grave situation the country is enduring and the need for coherent proposals capable of unifying the party and contributing to a peaceful transition toward democracy in the country and taking into consideration that in spite of the efforts made by the negotiating commission and our congressmen, there has not been enough progress to guarantee that there will be a clean, authentic, and reliable electoral process in August 1994, has decided to summon the government, the political forces, and society to a serious dialogue to find ways of responsibly facing the current crisis and to offer citizens guarantees so they can freely elect the government that best suits their aspirations and interests,

PAN believes the country wants to see clear evidence that the government has the political will to guarantee a democratic transition and to endorse with deeds the commitments acquired through the Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice.

It resolves:

1. To demand that the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio be cleared up as well as the creation of a special commission composed of independent attorneys of acknowledged honorability. The commission must be given all the necessary support and facilities to carry out its activities. Only this will give the investigations credibility.
2. To demand a continuation of the peace dialogue in Chiapas, a stop to the hostile climate against the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN], and satisfying the demands from the EZLN and from the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations.

The government has the obligation of guaranteeing a halt to the provocations and aggressions against the Indian-peasant movement that are blocking the dialogue.

3. The immediate opening of the media, especially the XEW Television Network, under impartial and equitable conditions for all candidates and parties so the citizens may have truthful information and facts to draw electoral preference opinions.
4. To resolutely back the social and economic aspirations and demands that the various sectors of the population have presented in view of the ruin generated by the neo-liberal and excluding policies of this administration.
5. To promote the formation of the alternate social bloc and the recomposition of forces initiated by the National Democratic Alliance to forward, with citizen mobilizations and votes, the transition to democracy.
6. To review our elections campaign strategy to prepare a national plan with candidates to Senate and Chamber of Deputies seats; to harmonize and improve the propaganda effort as well as the organization of electoral structures to provide a convincing and distinctive message to the most important social sectors, to satisfy their demands through a viable government.
7. To enhance the unity of the people and to responsibly maintain links with society and the productive forces to strengthen the image that we represent the alternative that will make changes to make stability, peace, and development in the country possible.
8. To back the current process of political negotiations in the framework established by the National Council and to uphold the political initiative aimed at full compliance with the 27 January Agreement for Democracy, Justice, and Peace.
9. To establish the minimum legislative changes the party believes must take place so that the electoral organizations may enjoy full autonomy and independence and may engage

in procedures and actions that will effectively permit free, authentic, and reliable elections.

It will be necessary:

a. To continue and to promptly conclude the review process, with the approval of political forces, electoral officials at all levels, including the members of the electoral tribunals as well as the people responsible for the Federal Electoral Registry, and to make the necessary replacements to insure the full independence of the government's Professional Electoral Service.

b. To satisfy the demand that credibility on the voting lists be enhanced by means of efficient correction-making procedures and the delivery to the parties of a definite list of names 60 days before election day. Among other measures, lists must also be exhibited at electoral districts and not just in the municipalities, to facilitate citizen inspections.

The National Council calls on the citizens to continue verifying the voting lists after 30 April to compare them with the Federal Electoral Registry.

To establish the obligation the electoral authorities have to deliver voting credentials to the citizens and to make corrections through the citizen committees for electoral guarantees that resulted from the first selection made, by census, of voting table directors.

c. To insure equitable access by the candidates to the media, by extending the free time periods, reducing party publicity, and establishing verification mechanisms to evaluate the impartiality norms of newscasts.

To condition radio and television concessions to the impartiality and equity demonstrated by these media while covering election campaigns, as well as to the respect shown for constitutional guarantees and freedom of expression.

d. To efficiently put limits on and supervise campaign expenditures and to prevent any undue utilization of government resources and programs in favor of the governing party and its candidates.

To adjust deputy and senator campaigns to the limits set for the presidential campaign and to limit private financing to contributions of no more than 9,000 new pesos per person.

To treat contributions above this amount as bribe crimes.

e. To satisfy the demands for respect for the fundamental rights of parties and citizens such as the right to have common candidates [candidaturas comunes], the immediate election of Federal District government officials, and the voting by Mexicans abroad.

f. The functioning of the Special Prosecutor's Office for Electoral Crimes [Fiscalia Especial para Delitos Electorales], which must be backed by a supervisory committee composed of representatives from the political parties as well as by independent citizens and national observers; and foreign visitors who satisfy regulations must be invited with the support of multilateral international organizations.

g. The suspension of all events that may establish links between the work of public offices and officials and the political decisions, campaigns, and propaganda of the governing party. A formal declaration by the president regarding his determination to submit to the mandate of the people and to peacefully transfer power to whatever candidate is freely elected by them.

10. If these demands are not met, the next plenary session of the National Council will decide what action the party will take. Meanwhile, the National Executive Committee will continue coordinating actions to promote these resolutions and, together with a group of congressmen, will decide on the position to be adopted with regard to the various legislative reforms proposals, especially those that deal with the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Processes.

11. The National Council has decided that the Executive Committee confer with the presidential candidate to form a plural and representative commission responsible for the negotiations.

Democracy now. A fatherland for everybody!

Resolution of the Sixth Plenary Session of the PRD Second National Council.

[Issued] 17 April 1994

PAN Candidate Dismisses Anti-PRI Alliances

PA2404204694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, National Action Party [PAN] candidate for president, has ruled out the possibility that an alliance of all the opposition forces in Mexico can defeat the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] in the coming August elections. Nevertheless, he said alliances could work under certain circumstances to advance democracy and defend the vote.

[Begin Fernandez recording] We can and should work with any political party to advance democracy. [end recording]

During a news conference held at the foreign correspondents section, Fernandez said there are two basic requirements for holding pure, credible elections. First, the PRI should lower its publicity expenses to keep them within legal limitations. Second, the media should allocate time to candidates equitably and serve the truth honestly.

Government Secretariat Issues Communique

PA2404193694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Government Secretariat released the following two-point bulletin on 22 April 1994:

1. The idea of having the current Chamber of Deputies assess the 1994 election for president has never been discussed.
2. The dialogue agenda itself does not mention anything related to the Federal District head elections in December 1994.

Commerce Commissioner: Capital Departure Temporary

PA2404164594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 20 Apr 94 p 46

[Report by Nestor Martinez]

[Text] On 19 April, Carlos Sales Guerrero, president of the Senate's Commerce Committee, said money is leaving the country because of an "instability which I hope will be temporary." During an interview, Sales expressed his confidence that political and economic stability will soon "improve the situation in the country." Nevertheless, he said he neither rules out nor disregards Mexico's serious problems.

He denied this movement is a "flight of capital." The phrase, he said, is currently being used to describe an uncontrolled departure of people afraid of losing their assets, which they try to protect at all costs. "We are dealing with a movement of capital; this is to say, a financial market instability caused by internal and external factors."

Sales is in charge of negotiating NAFTA as the legislative branch delegate. He said it is evident there are very marked "financial fluctuations" everywhere and higher federal fund interest rates in the United States, all of which have repercussions on the yield of all stock exchanges in the world. "We have additional problems, and this brings about adjustments. I cannot predict the extent and duration of those adjustments. I can only say that, fortunately, those stock market fluctuations never last long."

Asked whether there is any connection between a recurring drop in the stock exchange indexes and the country's pre-electoral situation, Sales replied that many factors are involved in this situation. "To deny the influence of any one of them would be like trying to shield the sun with one finger. To regard the effect of one of them, however, would be an oversimplification."

He summed up the situation by saying: "There is indeed instability, which I hope will be temporary. In the world's history, however, there has not been one single permanent downward trend. An upward movement always follows. This is why I think the degree of political and economic stability in the country will soon reassure us. I neither rule out nor disregard the problems affecting us."

SECOFI Official Cited on Manufacturing Sector

PA2404191494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Apr 954 p 29

[Report by Isabel Becerril]

[Text] Fernando Sanchez Ugarte, deputy secretary of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [SECOFI], estimated that the amount to be invested in the manufacturing sector during the 1993-94 period will total 60 billion new pesos. He also indicated that despite events that have occurred throughout the country since 1 January, the federal government does not foresee any changes as these relate to [economic] expectations.

Likewise, Sanchez stated that manufacturing growth during the first quarter will be practically "stable" or very small since it should be kept in mind that the October-November 1993 period there was a fall in activity. Despite the fact that growth in manufacturing activity has been minor during the first three months of the year, there are no plans to prepare any emergency programs to stimulate this productive sector of the country.

The SECOFI official indicated that what the federal government is doing is working with competitive programs designed within the framework of PECE [Stability, Employment and Competitiveness Pact], of which there are currently 33 such programs. Through these mechanisms, the federal government is working with each manufacturing company to solve their most urgent problems. The most common, pressing problems that have been identified among these companies include inadequate financing, tariffs, red tape and public bids, among others.

Interviewed within the framework of the inauguration of the Expo-Electronic 94, the official denied that investment plans in the assembly plant industry are being delayed. He stressed that it is even appropriate to say that this is one of the most dynamic investment items of the national economy.

In reinvigorating the issue of investments in the national manufacturing industry, Sanchez pointed out that many companies are now investing their capital in the sector. The Commerce Secretariat, he indicated, has detected a significant number of investments in every manufacturing field which are either concluding this year or are at a very advanced stage. These capital investments, he added, include those in the automobile sector, cement, textiles, electronics, and assembly plants. Sanchez stressed that there are a significant number of projects that are in an advanced stage.

On the other hand, in reference to the problems of the electrical manufacturing industries which consist of purchases in the public sector—Federal Electricity Commission—he pointed out that they are at a standstill because of problems caused by Chapter 10 of the free trade agreement, but that it was already being resolved.

Yesterday during a meeting with several manufacturers, an agreement was made with respect to what the rules of the game would be as they relate to national public bids authorized within the Free Trade Agreement.

During his speech, Sanchez Ugarte said the electronic manufacturing industry represents a key element in the country's economic, modernization strategy because the search for greater levels of productivity has encouraged a more significant use of electronic products in most sectors.

SEMIP To Maintain Oil Extraction, Export Levels

PA2404133194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2049 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—According to an Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Secretariat (SEMIP) report, Mexico will maintain its oil extraction and export rate at 1.3 million barrels a day. In London, Mauricio Toussaint Ribot, director of SEMIP hydrocarbon policies, said Mexico's production of liquid hydrocarbons, which was 3.131 million barrels a day in 1993, surpassed the all-time high reached in 1982 for the third consecutive year.

A SEMIP communique stated that the Mexican official explained in London, before international experts, that of that amount, 1.794 million was for domestic consumption and 1.337 million for export. Toussaint Ribot said the increase in hydrocarbon reserves over the past three years allowed the country to replenish three quarters of its production, thus reversing a trend of several years.

In the meeting where experts present their countries' hydrocarbon policies, he said 38 oil fields have been discovered in the past three years—the same number discovered throughout the preceding six years. For this reason, he gave assurances that Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] will invest over $20 billion until the year 2000 to recover the cash flow that had diminished in the 1980's. Pemex currently invests $3 billion a year.

He added that Mexico's policy allows it to become integrated into markets worldwide with its competitive oil industry, which can face the uncertainties of international markets and remain a dynamic factor in the national economy.

Salinas Sends Condolences to Nixon Family

PA2304192494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1753 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)—In a message of condolence addressed to Richard Nixon's family, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today lamented the former U.S. President's death. Salinas expressed his condolences to Nixon's daughters Patricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, the president's office reported in a press communique.

Nixon, 81, died in a New York hospital on Friday night. On Monday, he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, which kept him in a coma until his death. He had to step down in 1974 as the result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon's funeral will take place at Yorba Linda, his birthplace in California, next Wednesday.

Basque Vice President Concludes Official Visit

PA2304005294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Apr 94 p 9

[Article by Victor Cardoso]

[Text] Jon Imanol Azua Mendia, government vice president of the autonomous Basque country, confirmed that no known member of the separatist organization ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] is in Mexico; that there is no known link with local subversive groups; and that the Mexican Government has never asked for special advisers to combat terrorist activities.

In a news conference at the conclusion of his eight-day official visit to Mexico, the representative of the Basque Government stated there is no information, proof, or indication that the ETA had anything to do with the events that shook Mexico this year. "If any known member of the ETA were in Mexico, he would have been identified and completely controlled. We have to admit, however, that clandestine organizations also have unidentified leaders, but they are always tracked down," he said.

He explained that the Mexican authorities and police exchange data with their counterparts in Spain and the Basque country, which he considered normal and based on signed agreements. He added that no specific action had been requested by the Mexican Government.

Azua Mendia condemned violence and said dialogue is the best path for finding solutions to any kind of problem. "There is no place in any country for violence or the use of violent methods because such things are insane and distort the main goals of any struggle," he expressed.

Well versed in Mexican affairs as he has lived here for several years, Azua Mendia made light of newspaper reports implicating former Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios in illegal activities. He denied that Spanish media are waging a campaign to discredit either Mexico or its politicians. "I do not agree with the opinions expressed by much of the media, although one could surmise that they are looking for the reasons behind the events in the country. Nevertheless, they are still nothing more than newspaper articles," he said.

"In general, there is confidence and a positive impression of Mexico abroad. Events throughout the year could have initially shaken the confidence of the international community, but the country's opening process, the signing of the free trade agreement, and Mexico's recent inclusion in the OECD are proof that this process is irreversible. All of these factors increase confidence that Mexico is a sure bet for the future," Azua added.

Remarking on his visit, Azua Mendia said an agreement was reached with Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe to operate a Basque financial institution once the secretariat establishes the norms for foreign bank operations in Mexico. Azua also spoke with Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello, with whom he discussed relations between Spain and Mexico, particularly trade and the possibilities for foreign investment raised by NAFTA.

Navy Rescues Cuban Boaters in Quintana Roo

PA2404193894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2154 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Chetumal, Mexico, 22 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Navy rescued 94 Cubans after the Cubans' boat, which had drifted for several days, ran aground on the Banco Chinchorro reef area in southern Quintana Roo State.

Roberto Erales Jimenez, under secretary of the state government, said the group, composed of 47 men, 27 women, and 20 children, sailed from Puerto Tuna, Cuba, on 15 April aboard the 30-foot boat "Casilda 27."

Governor Mario Villanueva Madrid reported that the Cubans were rescued by Navy members, who helped them get to the village of Mahahual, some 45 km east of Chetumal, where they were given medical assistance and food. The governor said the Mexican immigration authorities issued them a permit to stay on Mexican territory until next Sunday. [passage omitted]

Cuban Education Official Dies from Heart Attack

PA2404011094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2112 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Embassy in Mexico has reported that Alfredo Alfonso Guillin Zelaya, an official of the Cuban Education Ministry, died of a heart attack during a working visit to Chihuahua State in northern Mexico.

Guillin, who was of Mexican origin, died at the age of 57 on Friday and his remains will be transferred to Cuba, the embassy reported in a communique in which they stated they had sent their condolences to relatives in Cuba and Mexico.

Guillin had come to Mexico two weeks ago at the head of a three-member delegation from the Cuban Education Ministry. "The official was due to return to Cuba today (Saturday) at the end of his mission," an embassy spokesman said.

Guillin was 19 years old in December 1956 when he embarked on an expedition aboard a yacht that departed from the Mexican port of Tuxpan, Veracruz State, bound for Cuba to begin an armed struggle that ended in January 1959 with the rebel triumph. The expedition was led by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

El Salvador

Polling Stations Open for Run-Off Election

PA2404134494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1307 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran polling stations opened at 0700 local (1300 GMT) today so 2.5 million voters can decide which, either the rightist candidate, Armando Calderon Sol, or the leftist candidate, Ruben Zamora, will be the next president of the Republic.

More than 1,000 foreign observers, most of them from the United Nations, are attending the procedures. In addition, some 6,000 police are watching over this run-off election, which will close at 1700 local (2300 GMT).

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which was severely criticized for irregularities in the first round held on 20 March, in the past few hours assured the people that the electoral machine was operating smoothly. The leftists, however, have warned of the danger of "another fraud" in favor of Calderon Sol.

Calderon Sol Encourages Voting

PA2404150994 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1423 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Statement by Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republic Alliance, in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Thank you very much for this great opportunity to address the Salvadoran people through Radio Cadena YSKL to tell them that today is a historic day for El Salvador. It is a day when the Salvadoran people, with their vote, support—necessary support—marking the path that El Salvador must follow. In this sense, the democratic process is being consolidated. Peace is also being consolidated. We are attaining that blessed stability El Salvador needs for development and progress and to provide the help we need, the help thousands upon thousands of Salvadoran brothers need.

I wish to invite the Salvadoran people to cast their vote. Let us express and consolidate our strongest wishes for the consolidation of democracy and peace. This process will be part of our history. It is a historical process in which, for the first time, Salvadorans who had never believed or participated in the democratic process are now participating. This participation has made these elections historical and the process has become historical.

El Salvador is setting new standards. El Salvador is setting new standards for plural participation. We are establishing pluralism, which is possible with this democracy we are building, to which each of us are contributing.

I wish to ask the people to vote. Only by voting can we ensure the future of our children. Only with our vote can we ensure progress, welfare, development, and improved standards of living so greatly needed in El Salvador. Only in this manner can we ensure better and clearer institutions for the good of all Salvadorans.

I can see that all is going well. The guidelines established by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal are working. The people are finding that voting is much easier today. The voting tables have been set up in alphabetical order. Getting information is much easier today. No one should refrain from casting his vote. We must all express our sovereign will. It is not possible to refrain from participating; it is not possible to remain isolated; it is not possible to refrain from voting when it is our marvelous duty to express our wishes. Let the countries and peoples see the democracy the Salvadorans are proudly building.

Onward, fellow countrymen. Onward, Salvadoran people. Let us all vote and express our sovereign will.

Thank you for this opportunity you have given me to call on the people and to tell them that all is going nicely, and we hope it will remain so. We hope there will be nothing for us to regret. This is a civic feast. This is a feast for all Salvadorans to celebrate with the joy, with that flavor the Salvadoran people give to all these great events.

Zamora Concerned by Poor Voter Turnout

PA2404201494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1908 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Ruben Zamora, presidential candidate for the leftist coalition, here today said that he is worried by the poor turnout of voters this morning when the voting sites opened.

"Very early this morning I toured the city and saw that the turnout of voters was poor and this worries me," Zamora said. Zamora is the presidential candidate for the leftist coalition headed by the former rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). "I ask the Salvadorans to think of what is happening and to go and vote," Zamora said when calling on the 2.7 million registered voters to consider the importance this election has on the future of the country and to go out and cast their vote.

The presidential candidate admitted that the electoral authorities corrected the mistakes reported during the first election held on 20 March. At that time, none of the parties that participated in the election attained the necessary majority—half plus one of the votes cast—to become president of the Republic. For this reason, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] called for a run-off election between the two leading candidates.

Thus, Zamora and Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] candidate Armando Calderon Sol confronted each other today to decide which of the two will be president for the 1994-1999 term.

Zamora has said that the experience gained in the first round made it possible for the coalition to be more alert at voting sites and prevent irregularities and fraud attempts.

The TSE called the 2.7 million citizens with voting rights to go to the 381 voting sites, spread throughout the country's 262 municipalities. The election started at 0700 local (1300 GMT) and will close at 1700 (2300 GMT). The TSE expects to release the results of at least 30 percent of the vote four hours after closing time.

Defense Minister Views Election

PA2404162394 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1535 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Interview with Defense Minister General Humberto Corado Figueroa by unidentified reporter at a polling station at the International Fair Grounds in San Salvador on 24 April—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] General Corado, what can you tell us about the election?

[Corado] I came here to cast my vote and try to assess the Salvadoran people's participation in this run-off election, where I think there will be a clear winner.

[Reporter] What about the number of people participating?

[Corado] The number of voters is considerable. There are some differences between this and the 20 March election. There are fewer voting stations here at the Fair, but their distribution is better. The election is taking place more quickly, which will result in the process concluding sooner.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Corado] No irregularities have been reported to us so far, either at the voting sites or the electoral process in general.

[Reporter] Did you cast your vote already?

[Corado] I am going to so at this very moment. [words indistinct]

Fraud Reported in La Union

PA2404225594 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2143 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Report by Fausto Guzman]

[Text] We are now in Pasaquina, La Union Department, where disturbances have been reported. At 1245 a ballot box was invalidated. We now have a statement by alternate deputy for the department of [three-second break in reception] for Radio Cadena YSKL.

[Begin unidentified alternate deputy recording] Thank you. First I would like to thank YSKL for the opportunity to address the Salvadoran people to state my [four-second break in reception] of the city of Pasaquina at 1245 today. The members of the Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [CD-FMLN] coalition withdrew from all 23 polling stations without any explanation.

Their only pretext was that they had discovered that a man—who they claim was Honduran—had already voted and was carrying an electoral card. They said they were going to withdraw from all the polling stations for that reason. The president of the Municipal Electoral Board, who is also the coalition's representative, also withdrew. However, because of pressure from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, from Onusal [UN Observer Mission for El Salvador], and from the secretary of the Municipal Electoral Board, a dialogue was held two hours after these gentlemen withdrew. The gentlemen from the Municipal Electoral Board were unable to reach an agreement because they claim that there had been fraud.

They have criticized the installation of the orientation center of the Nationalist Republic Alliance, ARENA, in front of the central park in this city. They claim that votes were being bought and sold at this orientation center and that fraud was being committed, which is not true. When we saw that they were trying to accuse our party, ARENA, we invited Onusal and other observers from the United States and other countries to see for themselves that the orientation center was being used to help illiterate people vote. We all know that the percentage of illiterate people in our country is high. All we were doing at the orientation center was asking people for their identification cards, looking for their names on the electoral lists, and then telling them where they were supposed to vote and where their voting table was. The people of Pasaquina came out to vote. They showed that they wanted to participate. Only they know which candidate they are electing for the presidency and the vice presidency. [end recording]

Disturbance Reported in Cuscatanzingo

PA2504041694 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0126 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Ernesto Iraheta, party representative of the Nationalist Republican Alliance at the Cuscatanzingo Municipal Electoral Board, by station announcer Raul Beltran—live]

[Text] [Beltran] Attention, National Civilian Police. Your presence is urgently required at the Cuscatanzingo Municipal Electoral Board. We have reports that riots have just broken out. Go ahead, Cuscatanzingo.

[Iraheta] We have had some problems here following the conclusion of the final vote count for this municipality. The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] won 46 of the 49 ballot boxes.

[Beltran] Do you have a total vote count?

[Iraheta] No, we do not have a total vote count. The problem occurred as we left the voting station. We were attacked by the hordes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

[Beltran] What happened?

[Iraheta] A girl received a serious blow to the head.

[Beltran] Do you need an ambulance to move her?

[Iraheta] She has already been taken to the hospital. Her name is Maria Victoria Santos Garcia.

[Beltran] Maria Victoria Santos Garcia. How old is she?

[Iraheta] I do not know. Three other party members were attacked after that. Somebody shot at them with some kind of short weapon. Fortunately they were not hit, but it was still a precarious moment for them. We would like to call on the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] and the FMLN to remember that democracy prevails now. Acts of violence and repression are things of the past. We wish to call on these people to truly join the democratic process by accepting ARENA's nationwide victory. Thank you.

[Beltran] Thank you for your report.

TSE Reports Polls Closed

PA2504001894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2306 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran presidential elections ended at 1700 local (2300 GMT) today, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] reported.

The elections, which began at 0700 (1300 GMT), were characterized by voter apathy and low turnout, the extent of which has not yet been estimated.

The TSE called upon all 2.7 million citizens eligible to vote to do so and installed 381 voting centers in 262 municipalities throughout the entire country.

Once the polling stations closed, the TSE immediately began receiving the vote count certificates at the official vote counting center located in a luxury hotel in San Salvador.

The TSE authorities announced this afternoon that the first preliminary report will be announced after 30 percent of the votes cast are counted.

TSE Declares Elections 'Total Success'

PA2504023394 San Salvador Radio Network in Spanish 0043 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Statement by members of the Salvadoran Supreme Electoral Tribunal, TSE, from the TSE Headquarters at the Hotel Presidente in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [TSE President Luis Arturo Zaldivar] We [word indistinct] announce within the legal framework; that is, today's elections have been a total success. We Salvadorans have expressed our absolute respect for the law, and those who have not done so are now suffering the consequences of their negative attitude. In that respect, we can tell you that on my instructions and by virtue of the legal authority I possess as TSE president, the National Civilian Police arrested Jose Antonio Ramirez in Jucuapa Municipality, Usulutan Department. Ramirez was arrested when members of voting table boards No. 4,205 and 4,214 in Jucuapa confirmed that he committed fraud by voting twice.

The elections have taken place in an orderly fashion. The other TSE magistrates will now give you further details.

[TSE Magistrate Jaime Romero Ventura] The logistical measures taken by the TSE to ensure the success of this electoral event are as follows: There was free movement of individuals and vehicles. There were selective checks of individuals entering polling stations. Thus there was security but voters were able to move about unimpeded. We increased the number of polling stations at a national level, especially in the capital. The number of voting table boards per polling station was reduced, thus allowing the elections to be held in an easy, rapid manner. The voters were able to move about with greater flexibility. In conclusion, we had an effective sign system that helped voters find their voting tables quickly.

[Unidentified magistrate] In addition to the measures to which Magistrate Romero Ventura has referred, the TSE worked to assist voters by issuing the necessary publications to locate and identify polling centers by number and letter to help voters find them more quickly. We published a list for each polling station with the first and last names of all voters to help them find their voting table. We set up a telephone information line so citizen could call and ask questions about the voting process. We arranged free urban and rural transportation. We also obtained the cooperation of the transportation organizations, which allowed the normal flow of traffic on election day. We also tried to create an information system through information centers at principal polling stations and with the cooperation of the participating political parties to help voters find their tables so they could exercise their sacred right to vote.

These are some of the measures that contributed to the success of today's elections.

[Zaldivar] As we begin this initial report issued by the TSE, we must first recognize the efforts of all our personnel, who have unselfishly gone out to complete the many tasks this election day has required. It is an honor to state that TSE personnel did their work enthusiastically both during the first election and now during this run-off election. The TSE would also like to recognize the National Civilian Police, which, in conjunction with the TSE, provided security for the election process. They also provided security in those places where the National

Police had no personnel for the elections. We must also recognize the cooperation of other government agencies, such as the Education Ministry. Without their help we would not have been able to improve the distribution of the polling stations across the country. In this same vein, we received assistance from the Agricultural Development Bank and the Association of Architects of El Salvador, who helped us with the signs and distribution at the voting stations as well as with posters, shelves, and so on.

We must also recognize that we have had the assistance of the Salvadoran Air Force, which will make it easier to bring you the results. We also give special recognition to the assistance we have had from international organizations such as USAID, the Electoral Advice and Promotion Center [CAPEL], several UN organizations, and the group of friends of El Salvador, who have all made enormous contributions to the success of this process.

[Romero] People of El Salvador, I will now address that pertaining to the preliminary and final tallying process. Regarding the preliminary results, we would like to state that the TSE is ready to gather and process the information and announce the results quite quickly. We have set up an entire logistical structure for that purpose. Just as in the 20 March elections, we have TSE representatives in each of the 262 municipalities throughout the country who will gather the tallying sheets immediately. We will gather the information via fax from 220 of the 262 municipalities that have less than 36 voting stations. This information must be sent to us by the municipal electoral board, which groups all the voting stations in the municipality. We will receive the information immediately. The information can be here in a minute.

We will collect each of the other 42 municipalities' voting station tally sheets and bring them to the Hotel Presidente by land or by air, thanks to the assistance of the Air Force helicopter. The Agricultural Promotion Bank's fleet of vehicles has been very useful in this task.

We have the computer equipment to tally and immediately process all the vote count certificates we receive. It is up to the voting table boards and the Municipal Election Boards made up of the representatives of the participating political party and coalition to provide us with that information. Once we receive that information, we will be able to immediately report the results. I must inform you that at this hour, at 1900, we are already receiving some vote count certificates via fax. The time to begin transmitting news briefs as well as the amount of information we may provide will depend on the Municipal Election Board and the voting table boards. We are prepared and trained to provide such information immediately. Moreover, we have drafted the instructions for the final vote count, which basically state the following:

The TSE, in agreement with ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the CD-FMLN [Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] coalition, has decided that the TSE will be responsible for conducting the final vote count as stated in the electoral code. The final vote count will be based on vote count certificates from the voting table boards and the Municipal Election Boards. The figures we receive during the preliminary vote count will serve as a guide. The objective we have for the final vote count is to inform the people of the results of the presidential and vice presidential elections in an accurate and timely manner.

To achieve this, we have a procedure for how the final vote count will take place. Three members of the Departmental Election Board, two ARENA representatives, two CD-FMLN coalition representatives, a delegate from the Attorney General's Office, an Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] observer, a table executive appointed by the TSE, a visiting technician appointed by the TSE, and, in San Salvador Department, two technicians and a secretary appointed by the TSE will participate in the final vote count.

The table executive will be a member of the TSE and will be appointed from among our personnel. They will be in charge of managing and coordinating the working tables. These working tables will begin work on Tuesday, 26 April, from 0800 to 1200, from 1400 to 1800, and from 2000 to 2400 every day. The procedure will be to make an inventory, municipality by municipality, of the original vote count certificates from the voting table boards and the Departmental Election Board as well as from those in the hands of ARENA, the CD-FMLN coalition, and the Attorney General's Office. This will allow us to have an accurate knowledge of all the information. We are going to initiate the vote count, municipality by municipality, in order. We are going to draft a form for the data received from the voting table boards. This form must be signed by the table members and the representatives of the Attorney General's Office. Once this form is signed, we will conduct the appropriate [word indistinct] and if the table members want a partial copy of the results, they can have it. Once the data received from the voting table boards is processed, we will release the information received from each voting table board and the total for each municipality. A copy in diskette of the municipal figures will be entered into a computer that will give us the national total. Once the vote count per department is completed, we are going to release the departmental total. The TSE will learn about the totals of the various municipalities and of the departments once the results are approved by the Departmental Election Board. The results will be turned over to the table executive, a member of the TSE.

Requests for recounts of ballot boxes as approved by the Departmental Election Board will be turned over to the TSE, which will initiate the steps to review the situation and determine if the review is valid or not. That is how we will do the final vote count.

[Zaldivar] The TSE wishes to express its recognition of the civic spirit and democratic calling demonstrated by our dear Salvadoran people. We also want to recognize the work done by participating political parties, both in the first round and in these run-off elections. We also call on the media to respect the law and refrain from giving election results before the TSE gives its results [three-second break in reception]. Finally, we want to make an urgent call to members of the Municipal Election Boards and members of the voting table boards to allow our TSE delegates to pick up copies of the vote count certificates and send them to us through the previously established channels. When this is done we will be able to inform the national and international community of the results of this historic event in our dear country.

Salvadoran people, good evening.

Calderon Declared 'Virtual Winner'

PA2504051494 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0434 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Statement by unidentified magistrate of the Salvadoran Supreme Electoral Tribunal from the Hotel Presidente in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Salvadoran people: Once again, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] is pleased to report the latest preliminary vote count done at 2230 [0430 GMT], which yields the following results:

Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA]	715,196votes	67.76 percent
Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (CD-FMLN) coalition	340,359votes	32.24 percent
Total Valid Votes	1,055,555	
Challenged Votes	3,001	
Null Votes	34,009	
Abstentions	7,217	
Grand Total	1,100,613 [asheard]	

At this hour, the grand total of votes reflects 89.73 percent of the votes. Therefore, and in view of these results, we have a virtual winner—ARENA—with Dr. Armando Calderon Sol as president-elect of the Republic and Dr. Enrique Borgo Bustamante as vice president-elect of the Republic.

Salvadoran people, the TSE has thus fulfilled its duty to the nation and—why not say it—to the entire world. We are witnessing an unprecedented event in the institutional and democratic history of our country. At this hour of the night, 2230, we have given the results for 89.73 percent of the votes counted and with 93 percent of the total votes received.

Therefore, with this report, we conclude the reports for this evening. We wish you a good night. [applause]

Cristiani Announces 'New President'

PA2504024294 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0154 GMT 25 Apr 94

["Part" of news conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified reporters at the Supreme Electoral Tribunal headquarters at the Hotel Presidente in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Cristiani] I think we can eliminate the word possible from the results as we have sufficient evidence of the voting trend. We have a new president and vice president. We are very pleased, particularly about the way in which the Salvadoran people once again expressed their feelings peacefully. We hope that from now on the country will be able to do everything that is required. The political campaign is over. I will continue working for the benefit of the Salvadoran people.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the people not (?liking) the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] We must not necessarily view it as the people either liking or disliking the FMLN. The people simply preferred another political force. We must realize that there are always some people who receive more votes than others and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani] We have had reports of some irregularities. Generally speaking, everything went very well. There was one incident in Pasaquina, but we do not have the details. We will have to check that out, but I do not think it will affect the elections.

ARENA Candidates Make Victory Speech

PA2504052794 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0256 GMT 25 Apr 94

[News conference by Armando Calderon Sol, ARENA, Nationalist Republican Alliance, presidential candidate, and Enrique Borgo Bustamante, vice presidential candidate, with unidentified reporters at the Hotel Presidente in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Calderon] Thanks very much, gentlemen of the media. First I want to thank [words indistinct] the huge challenge that is the [word indistinct] challenge of my life. I want to thank Salvadorans and tell them that we will not let them down in the historic challenge of bringing the nation closer every day to achieve the social peace that will help consolidate peace, democracy, freedom, and justice in El Salvador. We [words indistinct] of this clear and [word indistinct] Salvadorans have bestowed upon us in these historic elections. We commit ourselves to serve all Salvadorans. We want to thank ARENA's rank and file, our supporters, all our collaborators, and the thousands and thousands of volunteers nationwide who worked hard for this civic event and made possible this great and extraordinary victory, this victory for Salvadorans, this victory for all.

I want to thank and congratulate our opponent, Dr. Ruben Zamora, who has already publicly acknowledged our victory, thus showing political stature and refinement. I want to thank him for his acknowledgement and also to assure our political adversaries that we will govern for all Salvadorans. I want our adversaries to be confident from now on that we the president-elect and vice president-elect will govern for all Salvadorans. We believe our great task, our great mission is to consolidate peace, ensure political stability, and make El Salvador a better country for all Salvadorans. We will seek better standards of living for thousands and thousands of Salvadorans who need human progress and development. We must face the problems of underdevelopment and poverty together. I would like to thank you all for this news coverage and the way you have followed the Salvadoran democratic process. I reiterate: Long live El Salvador! This victory belongs to El Salvador and its democratic system, which is growing stronger every day. I would like to tell all Salvadorans that we are going to work hand in hand with you for the next five years. I thank you all very much.

[Borgo] First we would like to express our gratitude to all those Salvadoran brothers who trusted us and placed an enormous responsibility in our hands. Among those people, I would like to give special thanks to the ARENA members [words indistinct] and all those Salvadorans who voted for us. We must now ask God for help to attain the goals we have set and for strength to work for the Salvadoran people. I would like to thank the media [words indistinct], which has given us coverage throughout the presidential campaign. We hope you can project the true image of what we Salvadorans are all about: A nation which loves democracy and freedom and is convinced that the only road to progress is through social peace.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] As you know, we do not have any official results from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE]. Our computer center shows a significant trend. We would rather not give any figures at this time because the TSE has not approved them. We do know that this is a stunning and undeniable victory with a difference of more than two to one. I believe, however, that the TSE must report the numbers, because ours are not official. It would be better to wait for the TSE's official information. Our democracy guarantees participation for Ruben Zamora and the opposition forces. A specific and significant portion of the Salvadoran population has trusted them and given them an unquestionable political place in the Legislative Assembly [words indistinct]. In our democratic life, we seek participation for everyone. We seek the right degree of consensus and acceptance. We seek agreement. Parliamentary debate is precisely that. The government will respect and encourage participation. It will listen to whatever proposals a constructive opposition can offer. We are sure that this is the way it will work, and we are sure all Salvadorans will have a say in the country's future.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] We will deal with poverty as it has been dealt with so far, with a series of social programs that we have already defined in our government plan. I think it would take too long to get into that matter during this news conference.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Borgo] Our government will be made up of Salvadorans who love El Salvador and who have the capability and honesty to occupy a public post efficiently to bring the country forward. When we start putting our government team together, I am sure we will seek out the most capable people so we can face the country's problems together as a real team. There will be a truly effective combination of specialists and politicians. I believe we have the enormous responsibility to find the most capable individuals in our society.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] We have a commitment and a mandate to form an ARENA administration. That does not mean the administration wants to exclude the opposition. They have a specific role in the democratic system. [words indistinct]

My first step will be to ensure [words indistinct] of the peace agreements, which constitute a national commitment, a commitment by all organizations that guarantee peace and security in the country. That is why as president-elect I will go to New York to meet with the UN secretary general to ensure that the future of the peace agreements and the country's political stability [words indistinct]. I want to dedicate our victory to Salvadorans, because it is a victory for El Salvador. This victory commits us to God, and we ask him to give us humility; humility in our triumph, strength, sovereignty, and wisdom in this difficult struggle that awaits us in the coming five years. Our mission will be to improve the standard of living for Salvadorans. I offer this victory to Salvadorans because it belongs to them. It is a victory for all Salvadorans. We believe this election will serve as an historic example in the life of a nation that perseveres.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] Political, labor, and social forces and productive small and intermediate business sectors joined in these run-off elections. I would say that, on the contrary, these run-off elections strengthened our party.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] Our commitment to the nation will be to keep [word indistinct] and to comply with the peace agreements.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] I believe [words indistinct] the acceptance of governability. I am confident that with my untiring effort—because I will not stop—we will achieve better levels of development, progress, and social stability for Salvadorans. We will achieve the objectives you mentioned. That will be the greatest satisfaction of my life; to have accomplished the mission with which Salvadorans have entrusted me.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] [Words indistinct] won a political place in El Salvador. This has been confirmed by the peace agreements [words indistinct]. We Salvadorans have achieved peace [words indistinct]. Now we must achieve social peace, the reorganization and development of our motherland. This is a huge and profound challenge that involves not just me but all Salvadorans.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Calderon] It is a commitment, especially for all Central Americans, to work and strive for regional integration. We will use our work and willingness to seek greater levels of integration, not only in economic aspects but also in political and social aspects. Central America is one, and we will translate our will as Salvadorans—a unified people—into doing all we can to work toward true integration, especially in Central America.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] We are willing to negotiate. We are willing to seek the truth, regardless of who is affected. We will strictly apply the law and seek to strengthen [words indistinct], whoever it might be—the joint commission or any other group—in search of any solution to implement the law. We will be there because only then will we achieve justice and have the nation we all want. This is the only way we can gradually consolidate the state of law we all want in El Salvador.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] Look, there is no reason for anyone to point fingers at me. I am sure of all of my actions and I know my political career is a true example, which is why the Salvadoran people have given me their support and their trust on this wonderful day. Today the entire Salvadoran nation has seen, spoken to, and trusted this humble servant of yours. I think this is a reward for my continuing efforts on the political scene.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] There is only one ARENA project. I also believe there are valuable people in the government already, and I will surely take some of the present government's people into account. They will be the most capable people; those who can contribute the most to the country and the project.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] I believe the political campaign is over now. We must enforce the law and consolidate the state of law in El Salvador. Separating the powers of state will help guarantee that. We will have a judicial branch, which we already have. We have a legislative branch, the first authority, and an executive branch.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Calderon] We have an appointment in New York on 15 May before the inauguration ceremonies, when we will meet with [words indistinct].

[Announcer] President-elect Armando Calderon Sol and Vice President-elect Enrique Borgo Bustamante have concluded their news conference.

Zamora Admits Defeat

PA2504030194 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0214 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report from the Ramada Inn Hotel in San Salvador by Angel Iraheta—live]

[Text] [Iraheta] We are here at the Ramada Inn Hotel, where Dr. Ruben Zamora has just confirmed that he telephoned presidential candidate Dr. Armando Calderon Sol to congratulate him. Let us listen to Dr. Ruben Zamora, presidential candidate of the leftist coalition made up of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, Democratic Convergence, and National Revolutionary Movement:

[Zamora, in progress] .... dignity. First we want to thank all Salvadorans who voted for us and tell them that their wishes for change and a better way of life are still alive. We will continue working toward those things. [Words indistinct] for the force attained through these electoral events to fulfill our commitment and to continue working hard first for full compliance with the peace agreements, and second to defend and promote the interests of the majority in our country to attain a true state of development with justice and (?happiness) for all Salvadorans.

We have reached specific agreements, such as the agreement on electoral reform, with the Nationalist Republican Alliance and its candidate. We want to voice our willingness to immediately begin the electoral reforms that our country needs so much. We are certain that Dr. Armando Calderon Sol will keep his campaign promises. Thank you for your attention.

Cristiani: Peace Agreements Virtually Fulfilled

PA2504002894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2213 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Apr (DPA)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said today that the peace agreements will be virtually fulfilled in their entirety before 1 June—the day the winner of today's run-off presidential elections will take office.

Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the official Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], or Ruben Zamora, candidate for the leftist coalition Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, Democratic Convergence, and National Revolutionary Movement [FMLN-CD-MNR], will assume the Presidency of the Republic in 37 days.

President Cristiani noted that by the end of his term, only a portion of the total list of commitments regarding the National Police demobilization and land transfers for the demobilized military and former guerrillas will be pending.

President Cristiani made this statement following a visit this afternoon to the El Salvador's International Fair Grounds, his assigned voting site.

President Cristiani reiterated his government's willingness to comply fully with the peace agreements since the signing of the Chapultepec Agreements in Mexico on 16 January 1992.

He also stated that despite the difficulties the main objective remains full compliance with the commitments that ended the 12-year war.

The government is confident that the new president will continue to comply with those parts of the peace agreements that are pending as well as with the efforts to consolidate peace, reconciliation, and democratization in El Salvador.

The low voter turnout became obvious today during the mid-afternoon. These run-off elections have been characterized by low turnout alone because, according to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal magistrates, 85 percent of the deficiencies observed during the 20 March general elections were overcome.

A heavy rain exacerbated the low voter turnout because although most voting tables are sheltered, voters were dispersed even more than in the previous elections.

There were reports of several clashes between ARENA and FMLN-CD-MNR coalition supporters at the polls but no mention of any serious incidents.

Political analysts and the wives of the leftist coalition candidates emphasized that the issue is not who wins the elections but that "everyone accepts the results maturely."

Magdalena Granadino de Lima, wife of Francisco Lima—vice presidential candidate for the leftist coalition—emphasized that unity and national consensus must prevail among the political forces to guarantee the consolidation of peace, national reconciliation, and democratization.

Guatemala

Supreme Court Suspends Legislative Elections

PA2304155794 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1509 GMT 23 Apr 94

["14 August Elections Temporarily Suspended"—ACAN headline]

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The legislative elections scheduled for 4 August [date as received] in Guatemala were temporarily suspended after the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) approved an amparo filed by Deputy Carlos Humberto Arroyave.

The Solidarity Action Movement (MAS) legislator, who held a seat during deposed coupist President Jorge Serrano's (1991-1993) administration, claimed that the call for elections violated his political rights.

In confirming the temporary suspension of the electoral process, a Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) magistrate said today that his organization accepts but does not share the CSJ ruling.

President: Elections To Be Held 14 Aug

PA2404153894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio reiterated his confidence that legislative elections scheduled for 14 August will be held accordingly. De Leon told the media that the temporary suspension of the elections by a Supreme Court of Justice resolution is "temporary," and that the Constitutional Court will be the one to resolve the case definitively once it is submitted.

De Leon did not make any comments on whether or not the Supreme Court of Justice decision to protect Solidarity Action Movement deputy Carlos Humberto Arroyave was a political one. "I respect the autonomy of government branches," De Leon replied.

De Leon added that from an electoral viewpoint, the amparo Arroyave filed charging that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal violated his rights by convening legislative elections on 14 August has political overtones since he is a congressional deputy. De Leon indicated that those actions are allowed within a system of legality and a de jure regime and that the Court resolution shows that legal and democratic systems are at work in Guatemala. De Leon expressed his confidence in the integrity of Court magistrates, who convened elections based on legal considerations and in accordance with constitutional reforms.

Political leaders, including retired General Efrain Rios Montt, former head of the de facto government, and Francisco Reyes, both of whom are members of the Guatemalan Republican Front, maintain that the Court resolution was political because the magistrates do not want to leave their posts either.

Following the election of a new legislative assembly, new Court magistrates will be appointed.

URNG Accuses Defense Minister of Violating Accords

PA2204190694 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] organization yesterday accused Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez of threatening the organization and violating the recently signed agreements between the government and the insurgents.

According to a CERIGUA report, Francisco Villagran, member of the URNG's political-diplomatic commission, said: *Gen. Enriquez is failing to comply with the signed agreements by warning that any guerrilla leader who comes into the country will be immediately arrested and prosecuted.*

Enriquez made this statement on 18 April as he commented on the possibility that guerrilla leaders may come to Guatemala to participate in the second peace and democracy meeting, to be held in late April.

Villagran said that the minister's statements are also a threat, because the URNG is interested in working with the civilian sectors, especially because its proposals will be taken into account when reaching an agreement at the negotiating table.

The guerrillas believe that the government and the Army, instead of implementing the recently signed agreements, are conducting an active campaign of disinformation on the agreements' contents. In addition, the guerrillas reported that there is a destabilization plan aimed at hindering the negotiation process.

The guerrillas also demanded the government comply with the Human Rights General Agreement strictly and without any delays and harshly punish those who try to destabilize the situation.

Honduras

Peasant, Labor Groups Block Highway in Copan

PA2204193294 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1726 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by J. Wilman Torres and unidentified announcer; from the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" program]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Several popular organizations have seized a stretch of the highway that links the country with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico. Here is a report by J. Wilman Torres from Santa Rosa de Copan:

[Wilman] The situation is critical here in western Honduras, specifically in the area of La Entrada in Copan Department. Several labor, popular, and peasant organizations, led by the COCOCH [Coordinating Council of Honduran Peasant Organizations], decided to seize the international highway linking San Pedro Sula, Santa Rosa de Copan, and Ocotepeque with the route to El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States. The seizure is at La Entrada in Copan Department. From the information we obtained from those participating in the seizure, they have taken the action because they can no longer endure the country's critical situation, especially because of President Carlos Roberto Reina's measures against the people.

[Announcer] When did the seizure of the highway begin?

[Wilman] The highway was seized at daybreak. There is practically no vehicular traffic between San Pedro Sula and Santa Rosa de Copan. They are also protesting the increase in fuel prices. The last communique they issued said they are protesting the increase in fuel prices, especially cooking gas, a product that is used a lot in rural areas. The situation is critical. They have placards criticizing Reina's measures. We were told the groups might be drafting a note to President Reina telling him it would be better if he resigns.

[Announcer] These organizations are led by the COCOCH. What other organizations are represented in the seizure?

[Wilman] The Sitramedhys [Trade Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers] and mostly popular organizations. They are at the area of La Entrada, Copan Department. They have placed rocks on the highway and prevented vehicles from passing. They have put up placards in which they demand that the president reduce the prices of family basket products.

[Announcer] Are the police authorities in the area?

[Wilman] No. I got in touch with the 12th Infantry Battalion and the headquarters of the Public Security Forces to find out their position, and they have told me that soldiers will be sent to the area but just so there will be no violence. They said the appropriate authorities will be the ones to get involved in the matter. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators Protest Reina's Economic Policy

PA2304044294 Paris AFP in Spanish 0212 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Apr (AFP)—Hundreds of demonstrators protested this Friday against President Carlos Roberto Reina, whom they accuse of continuing during his first three months in office the neoliberal economic policies of the former administration of Rafael Callejas.

In this first demonstration against the administration that took office on 27 January, the marchers demanded measures to counter the high cost of living and an end to mandatory military service, one of the promises Reina made during his election campaign.

Upon taking office, Reina asked Hondurans for 100 days to organize measures that would give a "human face" to the economic adjustment program and which would diminish the protagonistic role of the military in state affairs.

The demonstrators accused Reina of not keeping his promises and demanded a price freeze to halt inflation, which increased 7 percent in three months; reactivation of the agrarian reform; and land grants to peasants.

Rafael Alegria of the National Federation of Rural Workers gave a speech saying that Reina must change the economic policies inherited from the former administration.

Juan Almendarez, a pacifist leader, demanded a dialogue with the government and popular sectors to unify support against "pressure from international organizations" of credit which demand the economic adjustment measures. He warned that "if urgent measures are not taken, there may be social instability" in Honduras.

Reina on Measures To Overcome Energy Crisis

PA2304002294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Apr (NOTIMEX)—After issuing an emergency decree on Thursday, President Carlos Roberto Reina said today that he hopes to overcome the three-month energy crisis affecting his country in 60 days. He said he hopes the measures taken to resolve the energy crisis throughout the nation will be effective and will end the constant power rationing to which people have been subjected. The measures include purchasing electricity from countries such as Panama, which began sending 13 megawatts through the Central American interconnection system this Friday for an initial period of three months at a cost of $3.8 million. A power-generating barge will be leased and will arrive in the coming days in the northern port of Puerto Cortes. Private plants will also be used to generate electricity.

According to official reports from the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE), the country's daily deficit is over 80 megawatts, which has prompted the creation of a rationing schedule. Reina appealed to the people to conserve energy while the crisis is overcome. "I am working as hard as I can so the Honduran people will not suffer so much with these problems," he added.

Also, he said the state will collect $26 million in arrears maintained by "wealthy" businessmen for several years with the ENEE, which might help to solve the current problem. "To achieve this, we must cut down on our energy use. It is time for people to help solve the crisis," the president stated. The current energy crisis is the result of a lack of water at the Francisco Morazan hydroelectric plant, the country's largest such plant, which supplies 63 percent of national demand. According to the same sources, a lack of foresight by previous governments and neglected maintenance of the thermoelectric plants that also generate power are also to blame for the problem.

The government trusts that Central American countries, like Nicaragua and Costa Rica, will supply electricity to Honduras, but these nations have reported that they also face problems because of the drought.

Nicaragua

Government Orders Arrest of U.S. Citizen

PA2304162194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1728 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Managua, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Friday, the Nicaraguan Government Ministry confirmed it has ordered the arrest of U.S. citizen John Hull, a naturalized Costa Rican citizen. Hull has several criminal charges pending in Costa Rica and is believed to be in Nicaragua, although his whereabouts are unknown.

Today, an official spokesman said the police began an investigation to locate the 74-year old Hull, who is charged with attacking anti-Sandinist guerrilla leader Eden Pastora in a place called La Penca on the Nicaraguan border 10 years ago. Hull, who is also accused of drug trafficking and supplying arms to the former Nicaraguan contras, fled Costa Rica to the United States several years ago, according to Costa Rican newspaper sources.

Today, BARRICADA published a report that Hull arrived in Nicaragua on 17 February through El Espino customs checkpoint on the Honduran border and that he is currently living on a cattle ranch near Juigalpa in the central Department of Chontales.

Even though police authorities have confirmed Hull's arrest warrant, a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the Costa Rican Government still has not requested extradition of the American, who is now a naturalized Costa Rican citizen. On Monday, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier reported that his government sent a note to the U.S. authorities requesting Hull's extradition.

Foreign Ministry Expects U.S. Aid To Be Reduced

PA2204184394 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Sources at the Nicaragua Foreign Ministry have said it is expected U.S. aid to Nicaragua will decline over time because, beginning in 1995, the United States will channel its foreign aid to our country through multilateral financial organizations, such as the IMF and the World Bank. It should be noted the United States has a lot of influence in the aforementioned multilateral institutions.

The Foreign Ministry sources, however, explained the $57-million aid package for the 1995 fiscal year is not definitive, but responds to tentative programs. The Nicaraguan Government has reiterated the country will not live eternally on international aid, adding that is why it is necessary to increase production in Nicaragua.

Panama

Foreign Minister Criticizes U.S. Senator's Remarks

PA2204161294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Apr 94 p 1A

[Report by Jose Otero and Vilma Figueroa]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino has described as "unfortunate" U.S. Senator John Kerry's recent statements harshly criticizing the Panamanian Government's lack of cooperation with the United States in curbing drug trafficking.

Kerry, a Democratic senator from the state of Massachusetts and chairman of the U.S. Senate's hearings on terrorism, narcotics, and international crime, stated last Saturday that although "organized" crime prevailed in Panama during the regime of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, "disorganized" crime now persists under the Guillermo Endara administration.

Mulino, who recently traveled to the Vatican and Russia on diplomatic visits, pointed out to Radio KW Continente that he believes Kerry's statements are 'unfortunate' that they should not be interpreted as originating from the U.S. Government. The foreign minister also stressed that the U.S. senator's statements "have not been very prudent."

Mulino explained: "The entire world is aware of the efforts we have made, despite our government's economic and human resource limitations, to straighten out what Noriega left us in 1989 after being deposed by the U.S. invasion."

On the other hand, the foreign minister also referred to statements by Robert Gelbart, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, who acknowledged Panama's efforts against drug trafficking and the importance of a high-level meeting between the two nations to discuss the issue, as proposed by Panama.

Meanwhile, legislator Leo Gonzalez admitted Panama has not done enough about the problem of money laundering via corporations, and this is where the focus of all U.S. Government complaints lies. According to Gonzalez, the struggle against drug trafficking has been tremendous, but the government has fallen short in combating money laundering, which is the one activity that ensures the drug traffickers' survival.

Numbers of Registered Party Members Reported

PA2304182494 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] The presidential tickets headed by Ernesto Perez Balladares and Mireya Moscoso de Gruber are the two with the largest number of registered party members, as indicated in a report issued by the Electoral Tribunal.

According to the latest membership report, Perez Balladares, who is running for the "United People" alliance, has the most members. The alliance comprises the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the Labor Party (PALA) and the Liberal Republican Party (Libre). Mireya Moscoso de Gruber follows with her Democratic Alliance, which comprises the Arnulfist Party (PA), Liberal Party, Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), and Independent Democratic Union (UDI).

The document states that the alliance supporting Perez Balladares has 292,000 registered members: 180,000 in the PRD, 82,000 in the PALA, and 30,000 in the Libre.

The coalition backing Gruber has 229,000 supporters; 130,00 from the PA, 47,000 from the Liberal Party, 26,000 from the PLA, and 31,000 from the UDI.

The alliance that is nipping at the heels of the front runners is "Change 94," which is backing the ticket of Ruben Dario Carles. The members are the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, National Unity Party (MOLIRENA), Civic Renewal Party, and National Renewal Movement (MORENA). According to the report, this alliance has a total of 122,000 registered members, 47,000 from the MOLIRENA, 44,000 from the MORENA, and 31,000 from the Civic Renewal Party.

The "National Consensus Alliance," which supports Samuel Lewis Galindo, has 89,000 supporters. The member parties are Solidarity, contributing 60,000 members, and the National Unity Mission with 29,000 members.

The other candidates have no alliance behind them. They have only the support of their own parties. Eduardo Vallarino of the Christian Democratic Party has 45,000 members, Ruben Blades and Papa Egoro have 29,000 members, and Jose Salvador Munoz of the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party has 27,000 registered party members.

Change '94 Candidate Views Political Alliance

PA2204202194 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by Victor de la Hoz from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Ruben Dario Carles, presidential candidate for the Change '94 alliance, stated today that without preconditions or impositions an agreement can be reached for the reunification of the civic alliance parties to face the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] in the 8 May elections. Professor Ruben Dario Carles made the statement in Veracruz during a political tour.

Sympathizers and supporters of the Morena [National Renewal Movement], Civic Renewal Party, and Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] parties, which comprise the Change '94 alliance, received presidential candidate Ruben Dario Carles, who toured the community of Veracruz. Carles was accompanied by people seeking electoral posts in Veracruz corregimiento, the western sector of the capital.

During his tour, supporters assured Professor Carles of their vote on 8 May. They also expressed concerns regarding community problems. The presidential candidate for Change '94, during an impromptu meeting, promised his government will work with the community to improve and clean Veracruz beach, to improve the roads, and to protect children from the corruption of drugs. Professor Carles said that without preconditions or impositions an agreement can be reached to form a broad civic alliance to confront the PRD on 8 May.

[Carles] We politicians must sound out the people, to seek a ticket to guarantee victory and to ensure Panamanians a better way of life.

[Reporter] Professor, but among the civic alliance candidates there seems to be a lack of willingness to set aside their political interests to form this ticket.

[Carles] Look, everybody cannot win. We have to use logic and consider what is most advisable for the country. I agree it must be without preconditions, without impositions, to reach an agreement for the good of the country. [end recording]

The political leaders of Veracruz, who back the Change '94 slate expressed appreciation for the support they have received from the Change '94 ticket.

PRD Candidate Tours Western Communities

PA2204184594 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate for the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], said today that the people will vote en masse for his party, with or without an alliance against the PRD. Our correspondent Fernando Fernandez has the report:

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] Ernesto Perez Balladares, candidate of the United People alliance, toured several communities in the western part of Panama. He was greeted by a large group of supporters and persons vying for electoral posts in Capira District. Addressing the crowd, the presidential candidate said the country will return to a people-oriented government, with the support of all the country's productive forces, and based on the dynamic of private enterprise to find the solutions demanded by the people.

[Perez Balladares] We will do so united, without hate, without revenge, without returning to the past, with a vision of the future, with a commitment to future generations; a free, independent, sovereign country, a country where all Panamanians, regardless of race, color, place of birth, or place of residence can have, as we say, an opportunity to progress with the support of a friendly government.

[Fernandez] In his speech, Perez sent a message to all the presidential candidates.

[Perez Balladares] I want to tell all those hatemongers, that they can still climb on the winning bandwagon, because with or without a cassette [reference to the 14 April video shown by President Endara on a national television network], with or without Mireya [Mireya Moscosa de Gruber, Arnulfist Party presidential candidate], with or without unity, with or without Eddy [Eduardo Vallarino Arjona, Christian Democratic Party presidential candidate], with or without Chinchorro [Ruben Dario Carles, MOLIRENA presidential candidate], the people will have their say. [applause]

[Fernandez] The caravan then headed for Bejuco, where Perez Balladares was greeted by supporters of that community. The PRD presidential candidate said he will make every effort, if elected, to direct his government's attention to the agricultural sector and to the most pressing social problems of Panamanians. The tour, which was under tight security, included the towns of Chame, Cabuya, and San Carlos District. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Meets CPC Senior Official, Belgian Prince

PY2204185594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1425 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem met with Belgian Prince Philippe and a Chinese Communist Party [CPC] delegation headed by senior official Hu Jintao this morning at the Olivos Residence.

The CPC delegation was received at the residence's main chalet by President Menem; Eduardo Bauza, the secretary general of the presidency; and Osvaldo Castruccio, Foreign Ministry under secretary for institutional relations.

According to unofficial sources, the president and the CPC delegation discussed the need to enhance bilateral trade.

Menem later met Belgian Prince Phillipe who was joined by Robert Urbain, the Belgian foreign trade and European affairs minister, and Marc Serbotte, the Belgian Foreign Trade Office ambassador. During this meeting, Menem was joined by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Argentine ambassador to Belgium Victor Massuh.

The president and Prince Philippe took advantage of the sunshine to stroll in the gardens of the residence.

Di Tella Leaves for Mercosur, UK, EC Meetings

PY2204182494 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella traveled to Sao Paulo this morning. He will participate in a meeting with his counterparts from the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries and with representatives from the EC member countries. Di Tella is also scheduled to review various issues involving the Malvinas Islands with a high-ranking officer from the British Foreign Office.

According to Argentine media, among the issues to be discussed during the talks is the progress achieved thus far in the Mercosur integration process.

An assessment will also be made of the technical cooperation offered to Mercosur by the EC within the framework of a Mercosur-EC cooperation agreement signed in Luxembourg.

Communist Party May Dissolve, Join Grand Front

PY2204230694 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 22 Apr 94 p 11

[Article by Raul Kollmann]

[Text] "The Communist Party will not live forever." With this sentence one of the main PC [Communist Party] leaders suggested there is an ongoing process to dissolve the party in order to be reborn as a new leftist faction within the Grand Front. The basic objectives are three: rejuvenate the Communist identity, which has always been associated with the former Soviet Union's model; reduce the target for the government's strong McCarthyism, which had an impact inside the front; and concentrate on the development of the Grand Front—not as a party—taking into account the notable result of the 10 April election. This new force would present a battle on programs within the Grand Front "to defend leftist positions." PAGINA 12 spoke with PC national and federal district leaders. In both cases the leaders consulted spoke about the same schedule for reconversion: "six months at the most."

According to the party's jargon, the PC's transformation is defined as "the establishment of a political movement within the Grand Front." The partners in the PC's refounding would be some former leaders of other factions within the Grand Front—People's Encounter members and trade unionists affiliated with the Grand Front—who would propound a congress for launching the party's refounding.

A leader close to PC General Secretary Patricio Echegaray said: "We are not disguising ourselves under false colors. The progressive space has become wider with the 10 April elections, and this would not only entail a change of name but also constitute a way of strengthening a left-wing trend within the Grand Front."

[Kollmann] Has the offensive against the Grand Front for having included the PC had a bearing on this refounding?

[Echegaray] It is true that some leaders were ill at ease because, as they contended, there were no Communists among the front ranks of the FG [Grand Front] ticket. Anyhow, it was precisely during the McCarthyist campaign when voters massively turned to the FG. Therefore, it is possible to state that nobody opted to vote for other parties instead of the FG on account of our presence. There are those who argue that the FG wants to expel us, but not a word has ever been said to that effect. The process that is about to start has nothing to do with McCarthyist pressure.

[Kollmann] Buenos Aires City Communists—who are the most enthusiastic about dissolving the PC to establish a new movement—recall two recent events that strained relations within the Grand Front: Echegaray was to have stood as a FG candidate in the Constituent Assembly elections, but FG leaders vetoed his candidacy. Following a tense meeting at the Communist Central Committee, the party acquiesced to the FG's demand and Echegaray was replaced by Eduardo Barcesat, who was then elected to the Constituent Assembly. The other conflict arose from the calling of a PC rally to close the election campaign last 5 April. Buenos Aires Communist leaders opposed the rally and some of them did not even go to the Swiss House, where the meeting took place. From the viewpoint of Buenos Aires PC leaders, refounding the party would constitute a way of putting an end to those comings and goings and putting one's shirt on the Grand Front.

The other thorny issue still pending is the FG platform. Echegaray's entourage gave vent to their annoyance with the economic and methodological statements made by Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez during two interviews published by PAGINA/12. One Central Committee members explained: "We do not agree with that but, precisely, the establishment of a left wing within the FG will enable us to wage the platform battle." Buenos Aires Communists interpret things differently: "Echegaray should not tolerate Chacho's speaking about repaying [as published] the external debt or accepting privatizations. We believe the party should be dissolved to establish a new movement, and that positions should be changed. It is no longer possible to speak about defaulting on external debt payments."

Both Central Committee and Buenos Aires Committee members are of one mind about the fact that the process they are about to undertake may cause a rift within the party. They foresee that "there are some stick-in-the-muds who will cling to their old views, and there is no way they can see the political reality any other way. In any case, they are a minority." Other PC leaders have a different diagnosis: "The party's transformation will by no means be easy. It will meet fierce opposition, but this is the only way out."

Industrial Espionage Suspected in Software Theft

PY2204190394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1247 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Cordoba, 22 April (NA)—Defense Ministry officials and Military Airplane Factory authorities in this city have confirmed the theft of computer material on the Pampa 2000 plane project. They stressed, however, that the stolen material "does not include confidential information" on the plane.

Aeronautics Engineer Francisco Luciano, chairman of the Cordoba Materiel Area Administration Council, said that the stolen hard disks contained information on "the cost of different plane components, information that was being prepared for the bidding that the U.S. Air Force is organizing for 12 May."

The United States will decide, through this bidding, on the purchase of 700 training planes. The total cost of the deal is estimated to be worth between $5 billion and $7 billion.

Luciano stressed that the stolen material "does not have any other value than the possibility of determining how many hours you can invest in manufacturing different plane components" and other similar data.

He estimated that the materials stolen are only worth around $10,000, and included a Hewlett Packard laser printer, software material, a mouse, a CD-ROM, a scanner, diskettes, and office paper.

Despite the explanation, however, officials here suspect that we are confronted with a case of industrial espionage. The stolen material is not strategic, but could have had no other destination than that of some company specifically interested in the plane bidding.

The case is being investigated by Judge Gustavo Becerra Ferrer, of the Second Federal Court, who took the precaution of informing President Carlos Menem about the incident.

So far there is no information on court-ordered legal steps, but it is understood that he has heard the testimony of various Military Factory officials and employees working in the area of computers.

It is presumed that the theft occurred on the night between 31 January and 1 February, when factory personnel were on vacation. The materials were stolen from the office of the department called Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS), which was working on a U.S. Air Force and Navy joint training program.

Economy, Health Officials on Patent Law's Effect

PY2204145594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2257 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires 21 Apr (NA)—Economy Vice Minister Carlos Sanchez today stated that the enactment of a patents law to protect pharmaceutical products "will neither entail an increase in the price of medicines nor necessarily foster the establishment of monopolies" on the Argentine market.

He said: "We must assess the effect that the new law on patents may have on prices, bearing in mind the market regulation mechanisms we have at our disposal."

Health and Social Action Minister Alberto Mazza, by contrast, conceded that the price of patents "may affect overall health costs." He nonetheless made it clear that this "may also depend on technology."

Mazza emphasized that a patents law "will encourage scientific development, and will permit Argentina's efficient incorporation into the world community."

Sanchez and Mazza made these remarks during a public appearance in the Senate's lecture room. The meeting was sponsored by Industry Committee Chairman Jose Genoud of the Radical Civic Union.

The executive branch submitted a pharmaceutical patents bill to the Senate in May of last year. Five different committees have been studying it since then.

The officials' public appearance is part of a series of talks that are being organized by the Senate. In the next few weeks Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will also participate in it.

Provisional Senate President Eduardo Menem introduced the speakers, and then said that the issue of patents "was not shelved, as many people say. On the contrary, legislators are seriously analyzing it."

Mazza denied that the new patents law will negatively affect the quality of medicines, adding that "in any case, quality will be guaranteed by the National Medicines, Food, and Technology Administration."

Mazza stressed the organization's efficiency, and said that it "was created with the participation and technical advice of the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization."

The health minister said: "This administration filled the vacuum left by state control organs, which did not operate properly because their work was not properly coordinated."

The economy vice minister in turn said that Argentina's acceptance of the international law on patents "will not necessarily affect prices, and if it does, the state has instruments to regulate the operation of markets."

"When we talk about patents we mean respect for intellectual property, not its effect on prices," the economy vice minister said.

Asked if the patents law will imply the installation of monopolies in the medicines market, Sanchez said: "There is a national law on defense of competition and a National Commission for the Defense of Competition. This commission is responsible for strict control of the performance of various companies with monopolistic powers, and for determining whether they abuse their dominant position in the market."

Sanchez said that the assumption that monopolies and high prices go hand in hand "is not necessarily correct, because we have the instruments to control that relation."

"The patents law will not create monopolies. It will protect property rights on scientific development. In any case, the existence of monopolies depends on the characteristics of each market," Sanchez added.

The vice minister said: "Some markets are necessarily monopolistic, as they cannot operate in any other way. But that does not mean that prices must increase. The computer business started with two monopolistic companies, and it is well known that prices did not increase. Instead, they dropped and are still dropping," Sanchez concluded.

Correction to Grand Front Leader on Plans

PY2104222194

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Grand Front Leader Discusses Plans," published in the 21 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 37-38:

Page 37, Column two, penultimate paragraph, from first sentence make read: ...Front's leadership that we will keep to the established timetable and that all candidacies, even those for town council members, will be discussed last. [new paragraph]

[CLARIN] You are...(rephrasing for clarity)

Correction to Chilean Economy Minister on Exports

PY2104172694

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Chilean Economy Minister Views Exports," published in the 21 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 31-32:

Page 31, column two, sixth full paragraph, second sentence make read: ...income of $2.6 billion in 1993. Of...(correcting word "billion")

Bolivia

U.S. Has 'Moral Duty' To Explain DEA Actions

PY2204165894 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 12 Apr 94 p A5

[Editorial: "United States Owes Explanations to Bolivia"]

[Text] The United States—its embassy, and through it the DEA—owe Bolivia an explanation for the events related to "the narco-accusation" being discussed by the FELCN [Special Antinarcotics Force] and Congress, even if this is simply for considerations of diplomatic practice or good manners, for lack of a more precise and appropriate definition.

It is already known with certainty that the DEA has been and continues to be a decisive factor in these actions. This much is known precisely because of the apologies presented by the U.S. Embassy to the Costa Rican Government, and through a DEA communique explaining the appearance and later disappearance, in Costa Rica, of Bolivian citizen Edgar Fernandez Lazcano. Nothing of the kind has occurred in La Paz, until today, despite the fact that our country was directly affected by those U.S. actions, which have hurt our national dignity.

The explanations offered here by the ministers of government and social communication regarding the Fernandez case are not convincing. We do not understand why our government does nothing effective to bring him back to the country, particularly as he is considered a key element in the Chamber of Deputies Justice Commission hearing, and given the fact that he himself has stated his willingness to testify before the commission following a previous detention by the FELCN. His extradition seems to be impossible due to a lack of charges against him. However, it should not be impossible for Bolivian authorities to ask the DEA—which currently holds him detained, or protects him, and which is also suspected of helping him get out of the country, enter Costa Rica, and later leave it, presumably for Miami—to bring him back to the country.

But independent of what the Bolivian Government does or does not, it is the U.S. Government which has the obligation, or at least the moral duty, to explain its participation in these affairs.

Editorial Urges 'Legality' in DEA Activities

PY2204214794 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 11 Apr 94 p A5

[Editorial: "The Intolerable 'Drug Enforcement Agency'"]

[Text] If there is—as there is in reality—an agreement between our government and the United States authorizing the presence and activities in Bolivia of an organization whose mission is the struggle against illegal drugs, the least that should be demanded from it is legality and transparency in its operations. The country has the right to know the name of the DEA director, where his office is, who his immediate aides are, and, above all, demand that his investigative methods abide by the country's current juridical order.

But nothing like that happens. In the eyes of the Bolivian people, the DEA is a mysterious and clandestine organization. Not even the chief of its national counterpart—the FELCN [Special Antinarcotics Force]—gave the name of the individual responsible for that organization. It has been learned that the DEA uses methods of intimidation and control over telephone lines, and through them control over private conversations. It has "safe houses" where, according to reiterated denunciations, physical and psychological torture are used to get the testimony of those under arrest, and where it can arrest any citizen going over judicial formalities.

We know the DEA has the delicate mission of fighting drug trafficking, and because drug trafficking is a clandestine and illegal activity, its operations and personnel must be protected with some degree of confidentiality. The National Police and the FELCN also have that mission but their chiefs show their faces because their task is legal, and any action they commit is subject to the judgment of the people and the verdict of judicial officials.

The methods used by the DEA in its operations are very different. To start with, as more than one Bolivian jurist said, that foreign organization uses methods that, if legal in its country, are not in our country. Kidnapping, for example, which according to the U.S. Supreme Court is admissible in some cases, continues to be prohibited in our legislation and is considered a crime even if the reason is to fight another crime. The same situation is valid for the presumption of innocence, which is the basic principle sustained in our entire juridical structure in contrast to the presumption of guilt used by that organization.

Another aspect that needs rectification is the one used by the DEA that consists of offering all types of rewards—including reduction of sentence or acquittal—if a witness offers testimony or evidence against another. Our juridical system rejects this method, and it is against our tradition and convictions. If this method is used in more developed countries than ours it is their responsibility, but we don't have to accept it.

What exists in essence is what the president of the Republic dramatically stated in his latest public speech, when he said our dependency is "terrible." And it is precisely that adjective that makes it intolerable because dependency in the broad sense exists in any country in the world, including the United States, which in some way "depends" commercially on Japan. But we cannot continue widening that gap; we should reduce it, and any effort in this regard deserves the support of all the people.

Therefore, it would be good for a branch like the legislative to thoroughly investigate the activities of that foreign agency, and to put it under strict legality with the possibility of annulling the agreement that authorized its presence in the country. If political organizations and the media provide full support, this will no longer be a utopian situation.

Military Chiefs: DEA Can Be 'Gradually' Eliminated

PY2204214994 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 16 Apr 94 p A9

[Interview with unidentified high-ranking Bolivian Army officer by FIDES NEWS AGENCY, ANF; place and date not given, first part is introduction]

[Text] Military chiefs of the different forces have recommended that the Bolivian Government should "gradually eliminate the use of foreign advisers in antinarcotics enforcement" and thus "guarantee national security and sovereignty."

"Experts from other countries—not necessarily from the United States—may come here. There is no problem as long as they abide by national laws and are appropriately authorized. But it would be good if they could be gradually eliminated in the short term," said a source close to the Military High Command. The officer explained, however, that their idea is not the institutional position.

A high-ranking Army officer close to the Military High Command agreed to be interviewed by ANF on condition he was not identified because of "specific regulations, disciplinary practices, and precepts of the Armed Forces organic law."

[ANF] Are the Bolivian Armed Forces fully capable of controlling the actions of foreign groups like the DEA in Bolivia?

[Officer] The Armed Forces are present all over the country but we are unable to fully cover the entire territory. Military organizations can temporarily come to Bolivia as long as they are under the supervision of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

We (the military) are preserving Bolivian national sovereignty and security in compliance with our constitutional role. It would worry us if elements (foreign military) were allowed to move freely (throughout Bolivia).

[ANF] Are the foreign armed elements operating in the country subordinated to the Bolivian Armed Forces?

[Officer] We want them to abide by national laws, we do not want their subordination.

[ANF] How would you label relations between the Armed Forces and the U.S. military mission?

[Officer] Military relations between U.S. and Bolivian forces are absolutely normal.

[ANF] Why are U.S. military advisers—rather than those from other countries—always involved in antinarcotics enforcement, humanitarian aid, and civic action?

[Officer] We must get all countries involved in the struggle against trafficking and thus get them to do their share. The best course of action would be if we used our own means and capabilities in a national and decisive action against trafficking with foreign technical advice in some cases, and with the provision of means we do not have in other cases.

[ANF] Do you believe national sovereignty is likely to be violated by foreign interests?

[Officer] The presence of U.S. troops in particular is no threat to national sovereignty because the Armed Forces follow-up the actions of U.S. personnel that enter the country to ensure they behave legally and return to their country within the time established by Congress in some cases and by the executive branch in others. DEA agents are here on rotational assignments.

[ANF] The arrival of U.S. military personnel has increased since last year. Has anything abnormal been detected?

[Officer] All foreign personnel arriving here do so legally based on bilateral and multilateral agreements. They cannot just parachute in. Everything is under control, if there were anything abnormal, the Armed Forces would detect it and report it to a higher level.

[ANF] When armed foreign personnel arrive under a binational agreement, to whom do they report during their stay?

[Officer] They obey the agreement. They are not under the orders of the Armed Forces but we supervise and have liaison officers in the areas where they work.

Military Command To Defend Sovereignty

PY2304030994 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] La Paz—Sources linked to the national Defense Ministry and the military high command on 14 April announced that "a national strategy document" for the defense of national "sovereignty and security" will be delivered next week to the president of the Republic and captain general of the Armed Forces, Gonzalez Sanchez de Lozada, for its "immediate implementation" in the attempt to safeguard the Bolivian state's physical integrity.

The sources explained that for this purpose a meeting of the Defense Ministry, the National Security Supreme Council [Consejo Supreme de Seguridad Nacional, COSDENA], and the Armed Forces command was called during the past few hours. The meeting's purpose is to start drafting the document that will be submitted to the chief of state.

The sources commented: We are going to adopt a definite stance—in our capacity as the government—regarding reports that revealed the "internal and external weakness" shown by the country in view of the "interference and imposition" of the foreign forces acting in the national territory.

They also said: "Our rule will be to propose basic guidelines for its defense."

This information was disclosed a few hours after former President Jaime Paz Zamora accused the United States of interfering in domestic affairs through the financial cooperation it offers for the fight against drug trafficking.

To prove the pressure exerted by the United States in "many fields" of cooperation it grants Bolivia, Paz Zamora said: "I took our flag and went out to defend national dignity."

The proposals the national organizations directly charged with security will make will include precise suggestions on subjects related to the presence of foreign troops in Bolivia, the existence of technical cooperation commissions for the struggle against drug trafficking, and the Armed Forces' actions to guarantee external and internal security.

The sources pointed out that "the president of the Republic, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, now has to call COSDENA to assess, as a whole, the discoveries disclosed these past weeks as a result of the investigations into the government authorities' links to drug trafficking."

In the meantime, National Defense Ministry sources today asserted that the drug trafficking scourge during the past 10 years has become a "destabilizing factor" for the Bolivian state's institutional system.

They also pointed out that the illegal business of drug trafficking had infiltrated "the state's most sensitive security structure" and, consequently, there is a risk—if this scourge is not eradicated—of "irreversibly enslaving" the Bolivian state with consequences that, so far, "have not been truly determined."

They also said they would make proposals designed to review agreements Bolivia has signed with the United States that "endorse a constant presence of foreign troops" in the national territory because—they said—it violates Bolivian sovereignty and the country's laws.

They pointed out that the national government will have to do something similar about the "technical cooperation commissions" such as the DEA that act "with complete freedom and autonomy" in Bolivia.

The sources added: "We must establish an explicit difference between the functions of the U.S. missions that give humanitarian aid to given regions of the country and the U.S. logistical support in the war against drug trafficking. Rules for this sort of aid must be established."

Budget Approval Suspends Government-Workers Talks

PY2304010594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1633 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] La Paz, 22 Apr (EFE)—The Bolivian Government today approved the National Budget Law, which provides for an 8-percent salary increase for public servants. This is not considered enough by the labor unions that have reacted with massive hunger strikes.

The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), the only labor union in the country, has organized another voluntary hunger strike to protest the aborted attempt by members of the Attorney General's Office to dislodge three teachers who have been fasting for the past 19 days at the COB headquarters to demand better salaries.

La Paz District Attorney Javier Dips tried to dislodge the strikers and transfer them to medical centers because, according to medical reports, they are about to go into comma due to lack of food.

The aborted attempt was criticized by COB leaders and workers, as well as by Labor Minister Reynaldo Peters who denied any government involvement in the case, and by Interior Minister German Quiroga who asserted that those on hunger strike at the labor union headquarters will be respected.

COB Executive Secretary Oscar Salas, today stated that more workers have joined the 768 people fasting throughout the country "to make the government aware of their salary demands."

A group of 180 teachers who began a march to La Paz on 18 April from Tiquina, on Lake Titicaca, will arrive in La Paz today and immediately join the hunger strike, according to their leaders.

The teachers have been marching along the highway to La Paz for the past three days. One of them said: "We want to make the government aware that we cannot live in misery for ever. We demand a fair salary that will be in keeping with the cost of the family basket."

The government-COB dialogue was suspended after President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada at dawn today promulgated the National Budget Law, which provides for an 8-percent salary increase.

The COB has summoned a nationwide meeting of leaders to decide on future actions following the imminent rupture with the government, as well as the possibility of requesting the intervention of the church.

Brazil

Advanced Uranium Enrichment Process Sought

PY2104154094 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p 14

[Article by Virginia Silveira]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—By the next decade Brazil should be joining the restricted club of countries that have mastered the most advanced technology to obtain the enriched uranium (235) that is used as fuel for nuclear reactors. The Institute of Advanced Studies (IEAv) at the Aerospace Technical Center [Centro Tecnico Aeroespacial—CTA] in Sao Jose dos Campos is already producing uranium 235 through the method of separating isotopes with laser beams via atomic vapor.

The separation of uranium isotopes is an activity that currently demands heavy investment. Colonel Hugo Pereira Chaves, director of IEAv, says that among all the methods currently known (gaseous diffusion, ultra centrifuge, molecular) for uranium enrichment, the atomic process is best from the economic point of view. This method, he adds, is also best from the ecological point of view, given that the radioactive waste may be recycled and treated.

The most widely used fuel element for nuclear reactors is uranium, whose natural composition is as follows: 99.3 percent is made up of an isotope with an atomic weight of 238, and 0.7 percent of an isotope with an atomic weight of 235. Most of the existing nuclear reactors need "enriched" uranium. This means increasing the 235 isotope content, which is radioactive, to a concentration of greater than 3 percent.

The physical principle of the atomic separation method is based on the different abilities of the 235 and 238 isotopes to absorb light from well- defined frequencies, that is, light of specific colors. The atomic process works with uranium in its metallic form. The separation of 235 and 238 isotopes undergoes three stages.

The metallic uranium is placed in a container heated to 3,000 degrees [scale not specified]. The uranium vapor generated by the high temperature is absorbed by laser irradiation at a frequency that attracts the 235 atoms to a metallic plaque, from which they are extracted.

According to Col. Pereira Chaves, the IEAv has attained a level of 50 percent uranium enrichment during the process of exciting the 235 molecules. Extraction of uranium, however, has yet not been possible at such a level, he said. He did not reveal the level of enrichment already attained by the IEAv, as it is an industrial secret.

The United States

Col. Pereira Chaves reported that the United States has already managed a 30 percent enrichment in its tests—of which very little is known. The industrial development of this process is still not known in any other country of the world. The Americans have already decided that the atomic separation process with laser beams must be adopted by the United States on a commercial scale in the next century.

Atomic separation, Pereira Chaves said, will replace the current gaseous diffusion process that is underway. "Between 1972 and 1988 the United States invested $700 million in the atomic process. An industrial scale demonstration will require an additional $946 million," he added, according to IEAv estimates.

The IEAv, according to Pereira Chaves, has allotted only $71 million to its uranium enrichment program with laser beams since 1981. Part of these resources, nearly $41 million, were financed by the Aeronautics Ministry, and the rest came from the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN), the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (Finep), and the Strategic Affairs Secretariat.

For the project to develop satisfactorily, Pereira Chaves said, the institute would need something between $1.5 and $2 million per year. In the past three years, however, the institute has been receiving less than $1 million per year for the maintenance of its entire project structure, Chaves said.

Molecular Process

In addition to the atomic process, the IEAv has concentrated its research on uranium enrichment by laser beam through the molecular method. The molecular method, according to Chaves, uses uranium hexaflouride gas (UF6) mixed with a lighter gas (carrier gas). The mixture is accelerated in a supersonic (high speed) pipe, and is then cooled to a temperature of minus 190 degrees Celsius.

"Under those conditions UF6 molecules that have the uranium 235 isotope absorb laser radiation of a different frequency than that absorbed by the molecules of uranium 238," Chaves said.

The molecular process, according to the director, is also being studied as one of the alternatives that could be adopted by Brazil for the industrial-scale production of uranium 235. "The advantage of the molecular separation method is that there is a facility in Resende (Rio de Janeiro), which was built under an agreement signed with Germany in 1979," he said.

Another advantage is that researchers are already familiar with the entire corrosion process caused by UF6, which they have learned to control. The metallic uranium corrosion process (used for atomic separation) is still unknown to them.

Lower Cost

Research with the atomic separation method, however, is at a more advanced stage, as it has succeeded in separating uranium 235, though at a laboratory level. Production costs, according to the IEAv, are 23 percent lower than those for traditional enrichment processes. "Until 1985, a total investment of $9.7 million was considered necessary for the operation, maintenance, research, and development of the atomic separation method," Chaves said.

The figures, according to Chaves, are included in a study made in the United States and published by the NUCLEONICS WEEK newspaper. Based on the study, the United States invested in the expansion of its uranium enrichment capacity through the laser separation process.

In Brazil, uranium 235 is produced at an industrial scale by the ultracentrifuge method, which is based on the mass difference between isotopes. The Navy Ministry has a research center that specializes in producing uranium through this method.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2104203894

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 21 April.

The Sao Paulo industrial sector dismissed 1,481 workers during the first week of April. Unemployment in greater Sao Paulo rose from 14.1 percent in February to 14.9 percent. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p 1)

The National Bank for Economic and Social Development, BNDES, will offer for sale preferential shares of the Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Company, Usiminas, worth $400 million. The shares account for 17 percent of the enterprise's total capital. They were unsold at the privatization auction held in November 1991. BNDES expects to sell 80 percent of the shares abroad. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p 1)

Ailton Fernandes, the acting industry and commerce minister, said on 15 April that during the first two months of 1994 the importation of machines and industrial equipment increased by 29.7 percent to $3.818

billion compared to the same period in 1993. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2156 GMT 15 Apr 94)

Jose Ferreira Lopes, Brazilian ambassador to the Arab Emirates, on 15 April reported that the balance of trade between Brazil and the Arab Emirates, which in 1989 registered a deficit of $120,000 for Brazil, in 1993 registered a surplus of $33 million. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 16 Apr 94 p 5)

Canada has doubled its coal sales to Brazil so far in 1994. Canadian coal sales to Brazil in 1993 totaled 900,000 tons. So far this year, contracts for the supply of 1.8 million tons of Canadian coal have already been signed. The reason for the increase is a discount of $3.85 per ton, which surpassed the $0.60 discount offered by Australian suppliers. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 16 Apr 94 p 1)

The Swift Armour meat packing plant, which is owned by the Bordon family, yesterday went bankrupt because of a debt of $143.5 million, which is almost twice the value of its net assets. The crisis in the meat packing plant sector has also affected Sadia, another big enterprise that last year began to reduce its activities. The Anglo meat packing plant was sold last year, and Floresta Industria de Alimentos discontinued its activities last week. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 16 Apr 94 p 1)

According to broker W.I. Carr of the Indosuez Banque group, the electric power sector will be the main beneficiary of a phase of the Brady Plan that Brazil arranged last week. The Light and Eletrobras—Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.—companies will receive the main benefits from the plan. Carr estimates the principal of the sector's debt was reduced by 13 percent as a result of the agreement reached with creditor banks. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p 1)

Official sources on 15 April reported that between May and August 1994, the Brazilian Government will sell 2.4 billion bags of its coffee stockpile, seeking to reduce domestic market prices which currently stand at $0.05 above international market prices. The government may auction some 600,000 bags per month. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 15 Apr 94)

During an auction held on 15 April, 484,039 Arafertil Inc. shares were sold at the unit price of 24.53 cruzeiros for a total of 11,873,476 cruzeiros. The price of the shares was 0.012 percent higher than the minimum price, which had been set at 24.52713 cruzeiros. (Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Apr 94 p 27)

National Treasury Secretary Murilo Portugal Filho has reported that in the first quarter of 1994 the Treasury registered a cash deficit of 186 billion cruzeiros. This virtually balances the public accounts. During this period, the Treasury income stood at 10,420 trillion cruzeiros while expenses stood at 10,607 trillion cruzeiros. The deficit registered in February was compensated by the surplus in January and March. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Apr 94 p 1)

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics on 18 April, Brazilian industrial production dropped by 2.8 percent in February after registering an accumulated growth rate of 14.2 percent between September 1993 and January 1994. Of the 17 areas checked in January and February, only the capital goods sector registered positive performance; it grew by 0.8 percent. The mechanical sector dropped by 8.2 percent, the electrical material sector by 7.2 percent, the chemical sector by 1.5 percent, the metallurgical sector by 1.7 percent, and the transport material sector by 2.6 percent. These industries account for more than 70 percent of the activities in the sector. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p B6)

Chile

Foreign Minister Addresses GATT Marrakech Meeting

PY2204155494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Apr 94 p C7

[Excerpts] Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said yesterday in Marrakech that despite the success obtained in the Uruguay Round of talks within the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), it is necessary to continue to fight at a world level against protectionism and commercial discrimination.

He emphasized the contribution that will be made in this regard by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will replace GATT on 1 January 1995. Figueroa strongly warned that emphasis should be placed on some subjects, like the liberalization of agricultural product trade, the improvement of the rules against dumping, and the banning of unilateral sanctions and extraterritorial enforcement of domestic environmental standards.

The minister thus advocated the lifting of measures that may entail covert protectionism or the possibility of hindering free commerce through social or environmental criteria, or through the appearance of a kind of neo-protectionism that will be particularly harmful to developing nations.

"More liberal commerce, without discrimination, remains our best choice and our first priority," Figueroa said, in a speech he addressed to the representatives of 118 countries that today will sign the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of GATT talks and the agreement for creation of the WTO.

Addressing ministers of countries from all over the world, Figueroa conveyed our country's strong determination to actively and responsibly engage in the WTO. [passage omitted]

The Chilean Position

Figueroa went to Marrakech to sign the Uruguay Round agreements on behalf of the Chilean Government.

In the speech before his peers yesterday, Figueroa noted Chile's satisfaction over the fact that the Final Act will include the attainment of several objectives that were outlined in the Declaration of Punta del Este, such as the liberalization of commerce through the reduction of custom tariffs and the lifting of several non-tariff restrictions, particularly those affecting agriculture.

He also emphasized as a major achievement the fact that the textile and clothing sectors will also be ruled by GATT regulations, although the terms and deadlines will preserve restrictions that favor some countries for "too long."

As a second major achievement, Figueroa mentioned the strengthening of the multilateral system of commerce through effective rules. He said such rules strengthen the principle of nondiscrimination as the essential foundation of international trade.

Figueroa expressed Chile's satisfaction over the fact that the final documents will uphold—from a legal and political viewpoint—a new dimension of commerce that goes beyond the exchange of goods. He remarked that the agreement that regulates the supply and demand of services, and that creates—among other things—a forum and the mechanisms for strengthening liberalization, is a major step forward.

He explained that the improvement of the system for the settlement of disagreements is beneficial for mid-sized or small countries like Chile, as their interests will be preserved especially by the certainty and stability of international law.

Figueroa said that the creation of the WTO has strengthened the legal framework that is necessary for assuring these achievements, and that it is also a forum for multilateral negotiations in search for freer, nondiscriminatory trade. [passage omitted]

Pending Tasks

Even though he expressed Chile's general satisfaction over the agreements, Figueroa said that in the future it will be necessary to place emphasis on six different subjects in the quest for freer world trade.

First, he obviously mentioned the implementation of the decisions as of 1 January 1995.

Second, he advocated continuation and acceleration of the liberalization of the agricultural products trade. Third, he said it is necessary to improve antidumping rules, so that they do not become instruments for unjustified, discriminatory protection.

Figueroa said it is also necessary to consider the relationship between trade and the environment, reaffirming the principle that each nation should independently address the subject, impeding the extraterritorial enforcement of domestic standards, and avoiding unilateral sanctions.

Figueroa said that countries should be encouraged to join the multilateral system of commerce, in order to give it an effectively global nature. [passage omitted]

Concerning some existing concerns, Figueroa emphasized that Chile has maintained and promoted an open, clear commercial policy, both for goods and services, especially in the area of investment. He warned that Chile will preserve its national interests if the tariffs that some countries have adopted for the agricultural sector impair or neutralize the benefits that were negotiated.

Czech Prime Minister Announces Visa Elimination Accord

PY2204134194 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus has promised to eliminate visas for Chileans who want to visit Czechoslovakia. The prime minister reported that Chile and the Czech Republic have completed an agreement to eliminate entrance visas.

The Czech prime minister made this comment at the end of a lecture he gave to international affairs experts at the Andres Bello Diplomatic Institute in the Foreign Ministry building.

In his lecture the Czech prime minister said he is in Chile because he believes that his nation must not restrict its ties to European countries only.

Klaus expressed skepticism about the idea of a great European union, but he said he favors an integration process that admits diversity. He also said that the Czech Government is interested in safeguarding its own identity without, he said, dissolving in coffee like a lump of sugar. In addition, he warned that the Czech Republic does not intend to become a bridge between eastern and western Europe.

Finance Minister Criticizes Protectionism

PY2204143194 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 13 Apr 94 Economic Section p 2

[Text] Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat said yesterday that "Chile is against protectionism and the formation of closed trade blocs, as we want to avoid having the world fall into trade wars that are harmful to trade and investment." Aninat made this comment in a speech before the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Assembly in Guadalajara, Mexico.

He added that Chile will use every international meeting to denounce this practice. He noted that "after long efforts to increase the quantity and variety of its goods and services, Chile is operating with an export capability of 33 percent to the Latin American countries, 31.8

percent to Europe, and 31 percent to Asia. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Aninat also proposed the formation of open and sophisticated regional groups for investment and international trade.

He added that the Chilean Government was pleased to hear the reaffirmation made by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor that Chile continues to be the primary candidate for joining NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], made up of the United States, Mexico, and Canada, or for negotiating a bilateral agreement "because we are not against either of the two formulas," said Aninat.

Aninat also recognized the contribution made by the IDB for regional integration. He expressed optimism that this organization would support the hemispheric summit called by President Bill Clinton in Miami next December.

Nuclear Reactors' Services Highlighted

PY2204182794 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 14 Apr 94 p 12

[Article by Lucia Zamora]

[Excerpts] The Chilean Commission for Nuclear Energy (CCHEN] is undergoing a dynamic modernization process, which will facilitate support for the productive sector by improving its international competitiveness. The CCHEN will this Friday enthusiastically celebrate its 30th birthday under such positive circumstances.

Engineer German Piderit, the dynamic CCHEN president, told LA TERCERA that "we are optimizing the system, and our immediate goals aim at improving public service, a task that we will efficiently perform."

Summarizing the three decades during which Chile has been using nuclear energy, Piderit emphasized the development of a series of complex techniques related to the manipulation of nuclear fuel and the fuel cycle. "The fact that we can have and use this technology at a national level has allowed us to develop areas that are important for the rest of the country's productive system," he explained.

He was also pleased to refer to an agreement that CCHEN signed with authorities of the Second Region last week, "based on our policy of support for the sector that produces services and for socioeconomic development." This type of agreement will undoubtedly be signed with other regions, too. [passage omitted]

Reactors

Chile has no nuclear power plants, but research reactors, Piderit explained. "It is worth noting the size of those reactors, as there is no comparison whatsoever—as far as power, size, and the possibility of accidents are concerned—between research reactors and a nuclear power plant." (There are two nuclear reactors in our country: one in La Reina, and the other in Lo Aguirre, near the Lo Prado tunnel).

Piderit added: "One of them has reached its critical point with 5 megawatts, while the other operates at 2 megawatts. The smallest nuclear power plant in existence operates at more than 300 megawatts."

He noted that "as far as their operation or the possibility of any accidents are concerned, our reactors are practically harmless." The research reactors benefit the industrial, food, and medicine sectors.

Medicine and Food

Surgical and medical equipment, hypodermic syringes, gloves, and other elements have for several years been sterilized through gamma radiation at the Lo Aguirre plant.

In the specific nuclear medicine area, the CCHEN is now supplying "around 90 percent of the radioisotopes and radioactive medicines that are needed in Chile." [passage omitted]

Colombia

De Greiff: Government 'Subservient' to United States

PA2404022494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Report by Oscar Galvis from the "AM-PM" newscast]

[Text] Upon arriving in the United States from London, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said President Cesar Gaviria's administration is subservient to the United States. De Greiff called several U.S. officials liars and accused President Gaviria of unnecessarily criticizing him for his fight against drug traffickers. De Greiff said the president wanted to calm the U.S. Government's temper by attacking him. The prosecutor general said of the Colombian Government: They want to make themselves appear to be subservient to the U.S. Government by attacking me.

As for the accusations that Colombia is a narcodemocracy, De Greiff said it is an exaggerated perception and once again called Senator Kerry and Assistant Attorney General Harris liars.

Ambassador to U.S.: Country Not Corrupt

PA2204152994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From "Caracol's 0600-0900" newscast]

[Text] Colombia is not a corrupt country and its presidential candidates do not have links to the mafia, the Colombian Government and political circles said when they rejected charges in this regard by the U.S. Congress.

In general terms we are a clean country and that is why we reject such slander, Colombian Ambassador in Washington Gabriel Silva said. We will not remain indifferent nor will we allow these charges to prosper. Many innocent persons have died, and we are not going to trample on their memories, he said.

The government expressed its concern and disagreement with the accusation that the entire country is corrupt and that the presidential candidates receive support from the mafia. According to the U.S. Congress, this accusation is based on confessions by former Medellin Cartel member Gabriel Taboada.

The ambassador described those hearings and the statements by the drug trafficker—who is a witness for Senator Kerry—as inadmissible. He also lamented that all of this has weakened the war on drugs. Ambassador Silva said the accusations by this convict are an affront to the families of thousands of brave Colombians who have lost their lives in this war on the mafias. He said the mere use of Taboada is a clear sign of how Congress' watchdog function has been sidetracked, something that will affect our capacity to learn about the reality of the war on drugs. Apparently the only firsthand information this drug trafficker has goes back to the mid-1980's, but he was nevertheless allowed to question the integrity of an entire country, which is known in the whole world as a leader in the struggle against drugs, Ambassador Gabriel Silva said.

Reaction to Drug Trafficker's Testimony

PA2304200394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Cripton" newscast]

[Text] Indignation is growing in our country in the face of statements by drug trafficker Gabriel Taboada to a U.S. congressional commission meeting summoned by Democratic politician John Kerry. Taboada said every area of Colombian life has been infiltrated by drug trafficking. Let us hear some reactions:

[Begin recording] [General Hernan Guzman, Army commander, in progress] ...our country, and thus, completely loses the outlook of his country. Therefore, to think that this has.... [pauses] it is inappropriate to give a certain credence to the statements of this individual.

[Gen. Octavio Vargas, National Police director] It is unfair to attack the dignity of people who are working courageously, honestly, and morally.

[Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez, presidential candidate] It is urgent to clarify this to stop the stigmatization of Colombia and avert unpredictable consequences.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this an affront to the country, Mr. President?

[President Cesar Gaviria] Yes, we have publicly stated, and in a very detailed manner, Colombia's position on this issue. We have demanded a sensible stand from the U.S. Government and the American people toward the efforts that our nation has made.

[Presidential candidate Andres Pastrana, in progress] ...and know about money used in political campaigns in Colombia, must denounce it.

[Vice Presidential candidate Humberto de la Calle] This is not a narco-democracy; Rodrigo Lara, Luis Carlos Galan, Carlos Mauro Hoyos, Guillermo Cano, journalists, and magistrates died here. We are fighting drug trafficking here; we must reject such claims that are unfair and constitute an insult to Colombia.

[Presidential candidate Enrique Parejo] The government must demand the evidence from the United States that serves as the basis for the offensive that you talked about, or the testimony of Senator Kerry, or the testimony of this drug trafficker.

[Presidential candidate Ernesto Samper] He must demonstrate that. I think that one cannot toss accusations into the air. There must be proof and certainty. The world must understand that we are not the drug traffickers but the main victims of trafficking. I was one of them. [end recording]

Defense Minister Reacts to Taboada Remarks

PA2304030194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Reaction from the country's political circles to the outrageous hearing held by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics, and International Operations were not long in coming. Several presidential candidates, who according to Gabriel Taboada are in the pay of drug traffickers, had this to say today.

[Begin recording] [Andres Pastrana, Conservative Party presidential candidate] I am concerned to see that the attempt to besmirch Colombia's name continues. When a person makes accusations, he should name names. That is what the country needs. If he has names, let him say so. It is important that the country know if there is drug money in the political campaigns. The information must come out. As far as I am concerned, I am absolutely certain there is no drug money. I have just given my records to the overseer of the National Treasury, the National Electoral Council, and the Colombian people. People cannot continue making these accusations.

[Antonio Navarro Wolff, presidential candidate for 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance] I say categorically that Antonio Navarro and Jesus Pinacue have not received a penny from drug traffickers for their campaign. I am not familiar with the rest of Mr. Taboada's statement, and it is hard to comment on something with which I am unfamiliar.

[Enrique Parejo, presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alternative] Some of what was said reflects what many Colombians have been saying. There is drug money in the political campaigns and there has been in the past. Drug money has infiltrated institutions. That is a fact, and I have denounced it. [end recording]

The government and the Prosecutor General's Office commented on the matter.

[Being recording] [Deputy Prosecutor General Francisco Sintura] Senator Kerry, respect Colombian justice and do not get too close to rogues.

[Defense Minister Rafael Pardo] Those remarks cannot be taken seriously. They reflect an ill-intended distortion to harm a country that has suffered a great deal from drug trafficking. It is not justified to give credence to someone who has no information and no way to get any and whose charges are not serious. [end recording]

Government Decides Against Granting Seats by Decree

PA2304182694 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Apr 94 p 7A

[Text] The government has decided not to grant seats in the Congress by decree to former guerrillas because of differences among the political currents in how they are divided. The executive branch believes such an important decision, from a political and legal standpoint, can only be made if there is a certain degree of consensus among the possible beneficiaries: M-19 [19 April Movement], EPL [Popular Liberation Army], PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party], and Quintin Lame Commando Unit.

Government Minister Fabio Villegas explained that because of this situation, the government cannot accept a Senate proposal to give back the seats to the movements, which struck an alliance with the M-19 Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], which they lost in the 13 March elections. "We do not wish to create more differences and political confrontations," the minister pointed out.

The government position was adopted for several reasons. First, Presidential Candidate Antonio Navarro opposed the Senate proposal, although he clarified that he did so on a personal basis. Second, militants of former guerrilla groups, such as Bernardo Gutierrez and Gerardo Ardila, criticized the proposal and described it as "shameful for democracy." Although Navarro criticized the media for having consulted people who are no longer AD/M-19 members, they are former guerrillas however.

AD/M-19 President Carlos Franco said he personally opposes political favoritism, which is the name commonly given to the concession of seats by decree, because the Senate is not the only political forum that exists and because he is convinced that his movement suffered an electoral defeat on 13 March due to its own mistakes. He, nevertheless, thanked the government and Congress for "their gesture of admitting that the peace process, which has not yet concluded, and although it produced a Constitution, had a high cost of about 400 dead."

He, however, pointed out that the Congress, with the same disposition with which it proposed the application of provisional Article 12 of the Constitution, should consider the possibility of giving to the opposition some watchdog organizations (Office of the Attorney General or Office of the Comptroller General)," because it is not logical for the traditional parties, which are the ones that govern, to supervise themselves.

The government minister said the position assumed toward the Senate proposal in no way affects a political agreement that was just signed with the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS]. The CRS secured two seats in the Chamber of Representatives and the government will soon make them available.

Gunmen Kill Search Bloc Member in Medellin

PA2304204594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 23 Apr (EFE)—Captain Humberto Coral Caballero, one of the Colombian Armed Forces officers who was part of the Search Bloc that killed drug trafficker Pablo Escobar in December, was murdered on Friday in Medellin, police sources reported today.

Coral Caballero was shot by two persons in a vehicle while he was on leave in La America neighborhood, the same area in western Medellin where the Medellin Cartel chief was killed on 2 December 1993. Escobar was gunned down in one of his hideouts following a search that lasted for more than a year and involved more than 1,500 policemen. The murder of Capt. Coral Caballero, who was from Barranquilla, is among the first crimes in Medellin involving officers following Escobar's death.

Samper Interviewed on Election Campaign

94CA0105A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 3 Apr 94 p 10A

[Interview with Ernesto Samper by Carlos Murcia; date, place not given]

[Text] After the 13 March election and his selection as the presidential candidate at the Liberal Convention, Ernesto Samper Pizano now leads all the polls. This is due in large part to his proposal for a social coalition known as the Alliance for Colombia, which has made been well received by a variety of sectors. The candidate expects that his campaign will continue to proceed well, as his platform has more credibility than that of the conservative Andres Pastrana.

[Murcia] How is the Alliance for Colombia doing? What support have you picked up from people who have joined the coalition, and what further support do you hope to get?

[Samper] The response to that appeal has exceeded our expectations. All over the country there are large numbers of Colombians who want to join this Social Alliance for the people. We are appealing to all the people, without distinction of party, race, creed, or ethnic background, so that together we can bring about positive changes for the people of Colombia. The commitment I have made to those who have supported me and the people have made to Samper is to support the platform I presented to the Colombian people, which I ratified at the convention: to generate more or better jobs; to invest in social areas so that the benefits of economic liberalization will reach all Colombians; to increase decentralization; and a new peace policy that will enable us to achieve our dream of living together in harmony. This is a long-term proposal that arises from the liberal majorities, not a strategy to win the elections.

[Murcia] Do you think you can renew liberalism so that it will once again represent broad sectors of society that today feel they have been abandoned?

[Samper] Liberalism cannot simply sit back with its election majorities; it needs to reach out to the masses who have been isolated because they do not feel they are represented in the community. I have said that in Colombia there is much more liberalism than the Liberal Party, and with the task of modernization, institutionalization, improvement of ethical standards, modernization, and participation that the recently appointed commission will promote, which will be chaired by vice presidential candidate Humberto de la Calle, with the participation of young people and women, we will work so that this feeling will be converted into support for the party.

[Murcia] Peace was a fundamental theme in your speech at the Liberal Convention. Will there be peace in your government? Do you not feel that the approval of Protocol II in Geneva, as proposed in your speech, means making concessions to the guerrillas?

[Samper] At this time, there is no issue of more importance to the nation than achieving peace. If we take away from the nation the brake of violence, growth and opportunities for the Colombian people will take off. That is why I said that I will always listen to anyone in Colombia who wants to talk about reconciliation. We will bring about peace by returning to the state its legitimate monopoly over force, but also by increasing its social presence in areas in conflict with more and better health care, more and better education, more and better housing, and most of all, more and better jobs. Jobs are the new name of peace in Colombia.

[Murcia] Pastrana says he receives support in public rallies and you in private meetings behind closed doors. What do you think of that statement?

[Samper] That support which they scornfully say comes from "private meetings" is the same support that Andres Pastrana was seeking a few days ago. We cannot ignore the fact that politics is also conducted by presenting ideas to business groups, in forums, and in universities; these proposals are the very ones that have received majority support from major conservative, progressive, independent, and leftist sectors.

[Murcia] Some critics oppose your ticket with De la Calle, saying that both of you have abandoned your principles in order to win votes....

[Samper] All the liberal candidates in the recent primary agreed on the need to promote the second phase of economic liberalization, the social phase, the phase of the people, based on this social capitalism program which rejects the option of savage capitalism. Those statements are made by people who are concerned because the Samper-De la Calle ticket has received impressive support not only from liberalism that is more enthusiastic and united than ever, but also from broad-based sectors of society.

[Murcia] What will your relations be with the new secretary general of the OAS, and how will this position benefit Colombia?

[Samper] President Gaviria's election is a recognition of his status as a continental leader and of the fight Colombia has waged against the drug traffic and narcoterrorism. I am sure that President Gaviria will provide extraordinary leadership for the OAS with his well-known ability and dynamism. Obviously, in the next government we will make use of his presence in this organization to promote issues of great importance to Colombia, like the creation of an Interamerican trade bloc.

[Murcia] Will you alter your campaign strategy because of the change in the election date? Are you not afraid there may be more abstentions in the second round because of the soccer world championship?

[Samper] We will continue the same campaign pace, presenting our ideas on creating jobs, paying the social debt to women in Colombia, and investing in people. For the second round, I have promised all the Colombian people to keep from spoiling the world championships. With their support, we will win the first round by a "knockout," so we will be able to enjoy the games without being concerned about the elections. I also have to keep the promise I made to accompany the team, as president-elect, to the United States.

[Murcia] As president, what will your position be on economic groups?

[Samper] The same that it was when I was minister of development: to establish strict controls to avoid monopolistic practices so that no company can abuse its dominant market position. Obviously, with economic liberalization and foreign competition the possibilities of monopolies will be limited, but we need to pass strict legislation to restrict practices which hurt the consumer. But we cannot forget that Colombia needs to strengthen businesses and groups that can compete in the world market. And finally, when public assets are privatized, that must help to democratize ownership of property, not concentrate it in a few hands.

[Murcia] Do you think Luis Fernando Ramirez is ineligible to be a vice presidential candidate?

[Samper] Humberto De la Calle Lombana has been studying the issue of ineligibility. I believe the Colombian people must have absolute legal certainty when they go to the ballot boxes to elect the next president and vice president. Still, the most important thing is for the Colombian people to meditate calmly and responsibly about whether they would feel more comfortable with De la Calle or with Ramirez if the president were no longer there. And what has been perceived so far in the polls is the confidence and support that Humberto De la Calle generates as a possible successor for the president.

Today the candidate Samper is ending his "spiritual retreat" at a ranch near Bogota.

Attorney General Warns on Mass Prisoner Release

PA2204205394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The government might again declare a state of internal disturbance before 2 May. Special measures would have to be taken to prevent—for the third time—the possible mass release of terrorists and drug traffickers from the country's prisons.

In a letter, the attorney general [Carlos Gustavo Arrieta] warned the prosecutor general [Gustavo de Greiff] that if the legal situation is not defined for narcoterrorists and guerrillas, who have been held for 180 days as of 2 May, they will have to be released from jail, according to the new law. That mass release of suspected criminals has again alarmed the government, which does not rule out a declaration of a state of internal disturbance to prevent the release of drug traffickers and terrorists.

[Begin recording] [Government Minister Fabio Villegas] The government would evaluate the situation with the Prosecutor General's Office and would jointly make relevant decisions with that office.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the declaration of a state of internal disturbance been ruled out?

[Villegas] We are not ruling it out nor are we stating that it is going to be decreed. [end recording]

On another topic, the government minister described the assertions of confessed drug trafficker Gabriel Taboada in Washington as absurd and he criticized the position of U.S. Senator John Kerry.

[Begin Villegas recording] It is absurd and incomprehensible that a U.S. senator values the opinion of a criminal, a confessed criminal, more than this country's record in the struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

For the government, it is clear the struggle against drug trafficking will continue without rest, and not just to please someone in particular.

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA2104173094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the elections scheduled for 29 May 1994.

Presidential candidates Andres Pastrana, of the Conservative Party, and Ernesto Samper, of the Liberal Party, both addressed issues related to Colombia's economic situation and outlook during the National Exporters Association annual congress. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 94)

A recent National Consulting Center public opinion poll commissioned by EL TIEMPO reveals that with only 50 days remaining until election day, voters preference would seem to lean in favor of Liberal Party candidate Ernesto Samper over Conservative Party hopeful Andres Pastrana by a 10-percent margin. According to the poll, if the elections where held today, Samper would receive 49 percent of all eligible votes, while Pastrana would receive 39 percent; 4 percent would go to Antonio Navarro, while Miguel Maza and Enrique Parejo would receive 2 percent each; Regina Betancur would receive 1 percent, and the other candidates would receive less than 1 percent. One thing the polls evidence is that these latest results are clearly influenced by the selection of running mates, decisions which in the case of both the Liberal and Conservative Parties, took place during March. Samper was benefited with the selection of Humberto de La Calle as his vice presidential candidate. In this respect, 33 percent of those polled indicated that they were more inclined to vote for him after choosing de la Calle, and 16 percent said they were less inclined. At the same time, Pastrana's decision to select Luis Fernando Ramirez as his running mate clearly affected him. Approximately 22 percent pointed out that they were less inclined to vote for him after the selection of Ramirez, and 17 percent said they would still vote for him. Pastrana still seems to be more popular among female voters than Samper, but not by a very wide margin. In this respect, the difference in favor of Pastrana is only of three or four points, very small if one takes into account that the margin of error is only 2.9 percent. The results also indicate that the higher the income group, the greater the support for Samper. However, his support begins to fall as one proceeds from higher, to middle, and to lower income groups. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Apr 94 p. 8A)

Paraguay

Colorado Party Deputy Gunned Down in Ciudad del Este

PA2404012094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Asuncion, 23 Apr (EFE)—The National Police reported that a Paraguayan department deputy belonging to the ruling National Republican Association (Colorado Party) was shot to death today, Saturday.

The incident took place in Ciudad del Este, 320 km from Asuncion. The victim was identified as Julio Cesar Riquelme, national deputy for Alto Parana Department, who died of several gunshot wounds. Two other persons were wounded in the incident and were taken to a hospital in Ciudad del Este, capital of Alto Parana Department on the Brazilian border.

Police arrested Tomas Lezcano, 39 years old, as the alleged killer but gave no further details on the case.

Agriculture, Livestock Vice Ministers Announced

PY2004222794 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Apr 94 p 48

[Excerpt] Gerardo Lopez is the new vice minister for agriculture and Sergio Garay is the new vice minister for livestock. The two new vice ministers were presented on 16 April by Agriculture and Livestock Minister Arsenio Vasconcellos. The two new vice ministers have very good references; each in their respective spheres have provided important services for the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. It is hoped a difference in important ministry's activities will be noted. [passage omitted]

Article Views Reaction To Peasant Demands

PY2104234694 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 15

[Article by Hector Sandoval: "Wasmosy Might Get Burned in the Blazing Fire"]

[Text] The peasants' quasi-revolt enabled nearly all independent pundits and some qualified government experts to warn that unless there is an turnabout in economic policy soon, the fire could spread to the rest of the country. It goes without saying that the government cannot publicly acknowledge that its economic policy would unavoidably lead to social upheaval. Therefore, it inverted the terms of the progressive theory asserting that only an "adjustment" would eliminate the risk of a debacle.

If there is a virtue that is said to characterize every statesman, it is constant self-criticism, a periodic assessment of his actions. [President Juan Carlos] Wasmosy does not excel in this quality.

Whether it was scared or not, by the change of the social sectors' tune in the face of the negligence shown by those who wield power, the government had recourse to an old scheme that is as threadbare as it is hardly believable—it claimed that demonstrations were fostered by professional agitators. For lack of socialist governments that support subversion in the interior of the country (communist regimes barely survive amidst their misfortunes), it began to point accusingly at the press. It assured time and again that there are no social problems.

A well-known face looms up in this climate pregnant with pressures—violence from above. The signs are clear. [Public Works and Communications] Minister Carlos Facceti himself took the liberty of adopting, to everybody's dismay, the "guerrilla" fashion when stating that tire busters and all sorts of barriers were going to be used because there were indications of impending dangers in the peasants' march.

It is obvious that the intelligence service's game is fanning the flames of this whole affair. Otherwise, it would be impossible to account for the similar remarks uttered by nearly all the men close to the president. They cannot or do not want to believe that starving peasants can actually get organized. The same underestimation of peasants was and is a good justification for the government to postpone the solution of social problems. The same prejudgment leads the government to lend more credit to the existence of professional incognito agitators behind the disturbance.

We should then reflect that here, as well as in many other countries, there are individuals who would hail the replacement of democracy with other systems that are more "thrilling." There is no reason to believe they will be able to do so if the rest refuse to collaborate. For the time being, the danger is in the possibility that key sectors of the ruling class will let themselves be persuaded that violent conflicts are unavoidable and that appropriate repressive "precautions" against this should be taken. The murder of a peasant leader is a clear symptom of this.

Peru

Army Continues Offensive Against SL Columns

PY2204230194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1607 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by Fernando Granda]

[Text] Tingo Maria, 22 Apr (EFE)—The Peruvian Army continues its counterterrorist offensive that it began on 5 April in the Northern Peruvian jungle and is closing in on three Shining Path [SL] columns.

General Alfredo Rodriguez, the counterterrorist front commander of the zone, disclosed that the latest clash between terrorists and two Army units took place near the town of San Isidro.

Sources have stated that soldiers clashed with the SL "Red Sea" column, which retreated to what the military call "Spring Valley."

After the terrorists withdrew, Army troops occupied a SL base and are pursuing "Red Sea" fugitives who, according to military sources, are headed by two SL leaders known as "Rayo" and "Pescadito."

The military forces involve 380 men, of which 200 are combat troops and 180 support troops. They are closing in on the terrorists' retreat.

Gen. Rodriguez explained that the Peruvian troops are using a "pincer" move against the terrorists. He added that during 17 days of clashes, 14 terrorists have been killed and another 15 have been captured.

The military commander explained that these operations, on the banks of the Huallaga River in Leoncio Prado Province, Huanuco Department in the Northern jungle, have not affected civilians living in the combat zones.

Gen. Rodriguez said the Army has seized from the SL members 220 hand grenades, grenade-launcher rifles, 14 FAL rifles, bombs, shotguns, percussion caps, and a great quantity of ammunition.

The terrorist columns are believed to comprise about 250 men.

Military sources have stated that during the past few days hundreds of children, women, and elderly people who were forced to support the SL in the Peruvian Northern jungle, have surrendered to the Army.

The source did not disclose the number, site, nor exact date when these people surrendered. These people "were slaves" of the SL and were divided into "grass-roots forces" and "peoples' committees."

The SL seems to have used the same system as in the central region, where they enslaved thousands of indigenous Ashaninkas who are now being gradually rescued.

In the next few hours members of the Congressional Human Rights Commission and Attorney General Blanca Nelida Colan, will travel to the site of operations to try to verify reports on alleged attacks against civilians by helicopter gunships.

The National Coordinating Board of Human Rights has witness reports of helicopter-fired rocket attacks against towns along the Huallaga River and a video in which bodies of the alleged victims are shown.

Legal Defense Institute Director Ernesto de la Jara has said that some 40 to 50 civilians died in these attacks and the National Coordinating Board of Human Rights has requested the intervention of the Red Cross, which has not been allowed to visit the zone.

Army Commander General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, travelled to Tingo Maria with 30 journalists. Today they will be taken to the combat zone.

Gen. Hermoza said the SL is dismantled, the Army is obstructing its retreat, and the military chiefs are urging the terrorists to surrender.

State of Emergency in Huancabamba Extended

PY2204200494 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Defense Ministry extended the state of emergency in Huancabamba Province, Piura Department, for another 60 days to facilitate the implementation of counterterrorism operations in this region of the country.

In view of this, civil rights such as the inviolability of residences, election of place of residence, the right to hold peaceful gatherings without guns, and the right of not being arrested without a court warrant are suspended.

According to the supreme government decree published today in the official newspaper EL PERUANO, the Armed Forces will guarantee the control of internal order in keeping with the established law.

Original Rules To Apply in 1995 Elections

PY2204230494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1803 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP-NA)—Analysts today said the approval by the great majority in Congress of a draft bill submitted by the Lima Bar Association proposing that the original National Elections Board (JNE) run the general elections scheduled for April 1995, follows a recommendation by President Alberto Fujimori to avoid any suspicion of fraud.

After three months of unsuccessful debates, the government bloc suddenly on the evening of 20 April sided with the minority to approve the proposal for the JNE to organize the elections, thus freezing the implementation of a new elections system provided for in the new Constitution (1993).

One political analyst said: "This drastic change was prompted by a recommendation by President Fujimori."

The chief of state allegedly said: "There can be no suspicion of fraud if the adversary's rules are used."

The draft bill was approved by 55 votes to four, with three abstentions. It is divided into 11 articles. The first article states: The JNE, fully renewed, will organize the national electoral process for the election of president, vice president, and legislators.

The JNE will comprise five members: One chosen by the Supreme Court, one by the Board of Supreme Court Prosecutors, one by the Lima Bar Association, one by the deans of the law schools of the public universities, and one by the deans of the law schools of private universities.

It also states that by next July, at the latest, the JNE should have a comprehensive single text of the election rules to be used in April 1995.

Moreover, it must draft the regulations for the operation of the voters' registry and come up with a vote return system to expedite the vote tally.

Constitution Commission President Carlos Torres y Torres justified the "sudden change of mind," stating that it sought to prevent people from "talking about fraud."

Henry Pease of the Democratic Left Movement (MDI), among others, praised the decision.

"The opposition was being pressed by public opinion and had no other alternative than to back down."

Venezuela

Caldera Swears In Financial Reform Commissioner

PA2304154094 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Swearing-in ceremony of Gustavo Roosen, new presidential commissioner for the reform of the financial system, by President Rafael Caldera at the Miraflores Presidential Palace; date not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Caldera]...Gustavo Roosen has been designated as the presidential commissioner for the reform of the financial system. Do you solemnly swear to faithfully uphold the Constitution and comply with the duties assigned to you?

[Roosen] Yes.

[Caldera] If so, may God and the fatherland reward you. If not, may you answer to them.

The national government is aware of the importance of the delicate task assigned to Dr. Gustavo Roosen with this appointment and has to thank him for his willingness to serve the country by first taking on the presidency of the Banco Latino Board of Trustees and by now accepting this appointment, which will increase his responsibilities and duties.

The financial system's problem has been perhaps one of the most dire and serious problems encountered by the government I have presided over since starting my term in office. I must admit that Dr. Gustavo Roosen has been fundamental in giving Venezuelans the necessary confidence in this system, which is indispensable for the economic existence of any country. On this issue too, the affirmation of a fact—of which we are totally convinced and have clearly stated—has stood out: Social solidarity is indispensable, and in this case it has worked.

Although we have had difficulties appointing the General Bank superintendent and the president of FOGADE [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] due to the restrictions of the law, which was promulgated during the past government to select those officials, and, although the partial reform of the emergency law proposed by the Executive Branch is still pending, I have to admit that had we not achieved a basic understanding between the Executive and Legislative Branches, between the financial and the public sectors, and between the consumers and those responsible for the management of the country's life, Venezuela would not have been able to handle such a complicated, delicate, and difficult situation as the one we have confronted. However, we have to emphasize that the revival of confidence is a fact. We have recovered that confidence despite the fact that sometimes statements and proposals were presented, perhaps a bit too hastily, which jeopardized the country's trust in its banking institutions.

We must still—it is undeniable—anticipate and solve many serious problems before we can really say we have definitely recovered solidity in this sector, which is so very important to the country's life. Thus, I have wanted to highlight the decision we have now made. Dr. Gustavo Roosen will work closely with the national government, especially with the finance minister who, according to the Banking and Financial Institutions Law, has direct responsibilities in this field. On our part, we will offer Roosen all the necessary support and cooperation in his tasks, which are to benefit the country. I wish to reiterate that the country's immense fiscal and financial sacrifices to save the financial system have been made to benefit the people, the account holders. They have been made so that all those who participate in the complicated activities of the economy can have confidence in the system and have a trustworthy, satisfactory mechanism or institution that will allow things to march as they should.

I want to thank Dr. Roosen for accepting this mission and to express my confidence that the Executive Branch's decision to appoint him special commissioner for the reform of the financial system will contribute decisively to strengthening the current favorable opinion regarding this problem.

Roosen Holds News Conference

PA2304153294 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by Cecilia Pachano; from "The News" newscast]

[Text] Doctor Gustavo Roosen has assumed the task of revitalizing the Venezuelan banking system, after being sworn in today at Miraflores Palace as presidential commissioner for the reform of the financial system.

Roosen will exercise the office simultaneously with his current position as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Banco Latino. In a lengthy news conference held after being sworn in, Roosen presented his six-point plan to rescue the national banking system: reaching a solidarity accord with private banks, strengthening the Superintendency of Banks, reorganizing Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund], reducing nominal interest rates and the differential between nominal and real interest rates, defining new financial instruments to replace the zero-coupon bonds, and establishing a plan of rehabilitation or major surgery for banks assisted by Fogade.

[Begin Roosen recording] If we are able to strike a pact of solidarity regarding what I mentioned in my initial explanation, the country will see a change and will see a restoration in confidence, which was key in the case of Banco Latino.

I am convinced by the conversations I held yesterday morning and last night, which prompted me to accept this difficult task, that the government is ready, the Central Bank is ready, and, as a result of my contacts with fellow bankers as chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am convinced the banks are also ready for this solidarity pact. This is key to eliminating the uncertainty that affects the financial system at this time. [end recording]

Dr. Gustavo Roosen said that meetings with the private banks will begin this weekend in an attempt to sign the solidarity accord. A 72-hour deadline was set for its signing.

Roosen Requests Banks' Agreements

PA2204184494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Dr. Gustavo Roosen, who has been appointed special commissioner for reforming the financial system, said a few minutes ago that within the next 72 hours he intends to establish a solidarity pact between commercial banks and the Central Bank of Venezuela to preserve the country's financial network.

Speaking at Miraflores Palace, Dr. Roosen broadly outlined the complex situation for reporters. He said this pact is intended to clarify the issuance of financial instruments, which can help ease the situation by decreasing the issuance of zero-coupon bonds and, in place of these bonds, issuing Treasury bills of exchange that would be purchased by domestic banks.

[Begin Roosen recording] In accepting this important duty, we intend to coordinate between the Finance Ministry, the superintendency of banks, FOGADE [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund], and the Central Bank of Venezuela in every way possible in an effort to establish a solidarity pact to restore confidence in the financial system.

We will do this by implementing programs that lead to the recovery of subsidized banks, gradually reducing the current gap between passive and active interest rates in the national market, and seeking ways to use the system's financial surpluses in the placement of Treasury bills of exchange or financial instruments other than zero-coupon bonds, which has been the only available mechanism to remove surplus liquidity from circulation. [end recording]

Roosen Outlines Rescue Program Need

PA2204161694 Caracas Radio Nacional de Venezuela Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Gustavo Roosen, the chairman of the Banco Latino Board of Trustees, has hinted that the government is preparing a program to rescue the Venezuelan financial sector, which is currently experiencing a crisis, to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Roosen outlined what he thinks should be done to extricate the financial sector from its current difficulties.

[Begin recording] [Roosen] I believe that a current of opinion is forming on the crisis and that people are very willing to generate ideas and solutions to confront the emergency. Such efforts should result in a program that can be announced to the country in the near future.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Roosen] I presume the economy minister will have that responsibility.

[Reporter] But there has to be a way to get the financial sector out of its current crisis based on [words indistinct]?

[Roosen] Based precisely on that, of course.

[Reporter] Based on what?

[Roosen] Based on the fact that the banks' account portfolios will suffer progressive deterioration with the current high interest rates. I believe that 1) the financial sector totally agrees that this is the situation; 2) the intermediate margins between the active and passive rates are too high and have to be reduced so that an appropriate remuneration for the activity can be obtained; 3) the banks, which have been financially aided, require major surgery and a reorganization program that will allow their privatization as soon as possible; and 4) the financial aid mechanism that is [word indistinct] directly to the banks and is managed more efficiently must be reformed because those banks end up putting their money in zero coupons because they cannot find clients. A solution for survival has to be found to reverse the cycle that has been established.

Those are the four points on which we have to reach a consensus in the coming days to effectively stop the financial crisis, return the country to financial order, and restore its payment system. We must see economic growth more clearly. Thus, government policies regarding economic growth also have to be established. [end recording]

FOGADE President Esperanza Martino Resigns

PA2204190594 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Just as we reported earlier, FOGADE [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] President Esperanza Martino tendered her resignation before Congress President Eduardo Gomez Tamayo. In a communique, the FOGADE president said she does not want to become a negative factor within the Venezuelan financial and political systems. She adds she has a clear conscience because she fulfilled her duties.

[Begin Martino recording] Quite frankly, I feel very disappointed that having succeeded in obtaining financial aid that had practically reached 1 billion bolivares, last night it topped 8 billion bolivares. [sentence as heard] Does this help at all? This proves that this week's events have been a determining factor in once again creating a climate of upheaval among depositors.

I am not blaming the Venezuelan Central Bank [BCV]. During my interpellation yesterday, at no time did I say the BCV was responsible. In this case, all of the authorities are responsible, and I assume full responsibility in my capacity as FOGADE president and as president of the FOGADE Board of Directors.

All of this financial assistance was granted with the approval of both boards. Were we wrong? No! At this stage I cannot say that I was wrong; on the contrary, I believe it has been done very well and I believe a financial crash has been prevented, and this is important for the country. [end recording]

State Governors, Legislatures Reveal Conflicts

94SM0309A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 15 Mar 94 p 14 Section 1

[Article by Carlos Subero]

[Text] The results of the December 1993 elections placed nearly every state government in a situation of instability. The initial consequences have already been seen in the States of Amazonas and Anzoategui, where the recently installed legislatures have rejected the governor's annual report by a two-thirds majority.

There are two reasons why this trend is being seen right now. The first is the multiparty coalitions that emerged in most states, where the voters switched from the two-party balance that had prevailed until recently. As a result, in several states the governors ended up without enough executive political clout to block the rejection of the annual report they are supposed to submit to the representative body of their state for consideration.

But the other reason is that the regional legislators elected in 1988 were in office for five years, until 1993, while the governors were elected in 1992, a year earlier, when a different balance of power prevailed. The mistake, which the State Public Office Term Act failed to correct, occurred in 1988, when Congress approved the popular election of governors but did not change the law so that the regional legislatures that would control these leaders could be elected at the same time. The instability created by this factor will end in 1995, however, when elections for both levels will be held on the same day.

In 12 states, it is the balance of power that has caused the instability of the popularly elected government, because it is a minority government. These states are Amazonas, Anzoategui, Aragua, Carabobo, Falcon, Guarico, Lara, Merida, Miranda, Portuguesa, Sucre, and Zulia.

There are four other cases in which the instability is a result of the governor's inability to marshal the support of all the legislators who would normally be allied with him. It is common for a few ruling-party deputies to jump ship, which undermines the governor's political base in the legislature.

Right now the governors elected in 1992 are submitting their first annual reports. If a two-thirds majority votes to reject the report, the governor is automatically removed from office, and new elections are called. Although the same thing may happen next year with their second report of the three-year term, however, a rejection by a two-thirds majority will not result in new elections being called, but the legislature will appoint someone to finish out the term.

The minority governors can negotiate to remain in office, and in other cases, the opposition itself could be ejected because the governor is extremely popular and might run again in the new elections.

Here is the current situation in each state:

Amazonas

The assembly has just voted Governor Edgar Sayago out of office with seven out of 11 votes, the four deputies of Democratic Action (AD) having joined together with the three deputies of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS). Sayago had the support of the three deputies of the Social Christian Party (Copei) and Convergence's one deputy. It was decided that seven votes constituted two-thirds of the legislature.

A lot of political shifting has taken place in this state. Sayago used to be a member of AD until 1992, when he was expelled. He ran as a MAS candidate, and won the governorship in a coalition with Unity for Advancement

(UPA) and ORA [expansion not given]. But then he lost MAS's support and won over Copei, and more recently Convergence.

The elections to decide who will be governor are set for 24 April.

Anzoategui

This is another state where the annual report has been rejected by a two-thirds majority. Governor Ovidio Gonzalez was reelected in December 1992 with 51.70 percent of the valid votes in a self-described "ethical alliance" of 17 political groups, headed by Copei, MAS, the People's Electoral Movement (MEP), and ORA.

The balance of power in the legislative assembly was changed by the 1993 elections, resulting in the instability that has brought down Gonzalez's government. There are 19 deputies altogether, with six for AD, six for Cause R, four for Copei, two for Convergence, and one for MAS, the latter being the only one who voted in favor of the annual report.

Apure

The governor is Marcelo Oquendo (AD), elected with 53.24 percent of the vote in December 1992. AD has seven of the 13 members of the assembly, which would allow it to block the formation of a two-thirds majority of nine regional legislators. Copei has five, Convergence one.

Nevertheless, problems could arise here because Governor Oquendo has disagreements with the party's local chapter, which took him to the disciplinary tribunal recently. The instability has resulted from these problems.

Aragua

Carlos Tablante has been governor since 1989, having been reelected in 1992 with 62.73 percent of the vote. There are instability problems because the new balance of political power in the legislature means that the governor has to depend on the support of the MAS-Convergence axis.

There are 21 deputies, of which six represent MAS and three Convergence. These nine deputies can block a two-thirds majority vote to reject the annual report, which requires 14 votes. Cause R has six deputies, AD three, and Copei three, adding up to 12 opposition votes, not enough to muster the majority vote needed to bring about the immediate removal of the governor.

It should be noted that Tablante was a minority governor when he took office in 1989. But by entering into personal agreements with deputies who had deserted AD and Copei, he managed to forge a solid base of support that enabled him to govern without legislative hindrance.

Barinas

Problems arose here in the 1989 election, causing repeat elections to be held in May 1993. Gehard Cartay is governor, having won 52 percent of the vote in an alliance headed by Copei and MAS. The new balance of power, in which Copei has five of the 13 legislative votes, gives him a certain margin of safety. His government has encountered a variety of problems, but Cartay has very good relations with President Caldera. AD has five deputies in the legislature, and the other three belong to Convergence, MAS, and Cause R, with one each.

Bolivar

Andres Velasquez (Cause R) was elected in December 1992 to serve his last term as governor of this state with 63 percent of the valid votes for his party. Cause R has 12 of the 19 deputies in the legislature, which assures it of approval of the annual report. During his last term he was a minority governor, but although AD and Copei voted against his annual report, they did not have enough votes for the two-thirds majority necessary to force new elections. Now Velasquez enjoys strong support in the legislature. AD has four of the 19 seats, Copei two, and MAS one.

Carabobo

Henrique Salas Romer was reelected in December 1992 with 73 percent of the vote in an alliance headed by Copei and MAS. Last December's elections, however, changed the balance of power in the legislature compared to the 1988 elections.

In this state, as in almost all the others in the central part of the country, AD and Copei lost power to Cause R, MAS and Convergence. AD and Copei now have only three deputies each, accounting for six of the 22. The other deputies belong to Cause R (eight), Convergence (four), and MAS (four). A two-thirds majority requires 15 votes, and can be blocked with eight votes.

Governor Salas Romer, a politician whom President Caldera regards very highly, has good relations with Convergence. He did not take a stand in favor of the Copei candidate during the election campaign, in contrast to Ovidio Gonzalez, who not only favored the Copei candidate but also attacked Caldera's candidacy. Despite Copei's fall in Carabobo, one good sign for Governor Salas is the fact that in the only district where Copei won, the candidate was his son.

There were problems with the installation of the legislature in this state, and ultimately the executive board of the legislature ended up in the hands of Cause R and AD. The governor's stability will depend on his skill in negotiating with Convergence and neutralizing AD. In this state, most of the party votes went to Cause R.

Cojedes

Governor Jose Felipe Machado won in 1992 with 44 percent of the vote, basically the vote garnered by his party, Copei. This government is somewhat stable, since Copei won the state elections in December. Six of the 12 seats in the legislature are held by Copei, four by AD, and one each by Convergence and Cause R. It takes eight votes to get a two-thirds majority, which can be blocked with five votes.

Delta Amacuro

Partial elections have already been called in this state for 10 April to decide who was elected governor on 6 December 1992, given that the Supreme Court of Justice has annulled a group of official vote tallies.

In this case, the new legislative assembly elected on 5 December 1993 has nothing to do with the instability; it was caused by irregularities in the 1992 elections.

The balance of power in the legislature of this new state involves minority factions of AD, Copei, MAS, and Convergence. The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) decided to call elections, but it left in power Governor Emery Mata Millan, whose election has been called into question. Mr. Mata Millan was elected with the support of Copei, which has only three deputies in the 11-member legislature; but he has another group, MERI [expansion not given], with two deputies. MAS, whose leader, Armando Salazar, has gubernatorial aspirations, also has only three deputies. AD, Cause R, and Convergence have one deputy each.

Falcon

Another state whose government was left in a difficult position, without sufficient support in the legislature, is Falcon, where Aldo Cermeno has been governor since 1989. He was reelected in 1992 with 51 percent of the vote in an alliance involving Copei, MAS, and other groups. MAS has already abandoned him, and with the results of last December's elections, the balance of power in the legislature has left him in a precarious position.

Copei ended up with five of the 15 deputy seats. But the other 10, which constitute a two-thirds majority, are against it: Convergence with five, AD with four, and Cause R with one. Aldo Cermeno is on notice that he may be the next governor whose annual report is challenged.

Guarico

Governor Jose Malave Risso, Copei's 1992 candidate, won with 45.25 percent of the vote. Copei, however, won only three of the 15 seats in the legislature elected last December, leaving its governor without sufficient backing in the state's legislative body. He is another governor who may soon be ousted by a two-thirds majority vote rejecting his report.

AD controls the assembly with eight votes, Cause R has two, and MAS and Convergence have one each. Malave Risso became Guarico's governor with Caldera's backing in 1992, but later he publicly supported Alvarez Paz. Even if he could win MAS's and Convergence's support in the legislature, the 10 votes belonging to AD and Cause R would be enough to unseat him.

AD is the majority party in this state.

Lara

This is another state that is having problems, although not exactly caused by the new balance of power. The CSE called partial elections for governor under an order from the Supreme Court, which annulled vote tallies. Mariano Navarro (AD) is still governor, but the MAS-Convergence axis swept the December elections and is now predominant with 12 of the 23 seats in the assembly. AD has five, Copei four, and Cause R two.

Even if Mariano Navarro is retained as governor in the 10 April elections, his annual report could be rejected by a two-thirds majority if Copei decided to vote with Convergence, Cause R, and MAS. This state government is unstable as long as AD is in power.

Merida

Governor Jesus Rondon Nucete (Copei) was reelected in 1992 with 49 percent of the vote. The balance of power resulting from the December elections left him in a difficult position, however, as his party won only four of the 15 seats. The other 11, which constitute a two-thirds majority, are held by Convergence (six), AD (four), and Cause R (one).

Miranda

Copei Governor Arnaldo Arocha Vargas was reelected in December 1992, running basically as a Copei-MAS candidate in an alliance of 17 groups. He won with 62.3 percent of the vote. The balance of power in the assembly is now even, with Cause R holding eight as the primary party, Copei holding six, AD and Convergence each holding four, and MAS holding one. Fifteen votes are needed to remove the governor by rejecting his annual report. Arocha Vargas was a Caldera governor during his first term, and he is thought to have good relations with the president. During the campaign, he gave tepid support to Alvarez Paz.

Monagas

Guillermo Call (AD) is governor. His party took first place in the recent 1993 elections and now has seven of the 15 deputy seats, giving it a wide margin of stability. It does not have a majority in the legislature, so the governor's report may be voted down, but his stay in office would not be threatened. Call was reelected in 1992 with 52.4 percent of the vote.

Cause R has three deputies in the legislature, Copei three, and Convergence two, constituting a simple majority.

Nueva Esparta

Morel Rodriguez (AD) has been governor of this island state since 1989. He was reelected in 1992 with 48.81 percent of the vote, giving him a slight lead over Rafael Tovar (Copei). The elections are being challenged in court.

AD controls six of the 13 seats in the legislature. Copei has four, and Cause R, Convergence, and MAS have one each. The opposition to this governor now has a simple majority to vote against his report, but it does not have the nine votes required for a two-thirds majority.

Portuguesa

Governor Elias D'Ongia has been in office since 1989. He was reelected in 1992 with just 36.8 percent of the vote, and the results are being challenged in the Supreme Court.

The new balance of power left him in a precarious position, although his party still has the largest minority share. There are five groups: AD has five of the 15 legislators, and the other 10, who make up a two-thirds majority, are divided among Copei (four), Convergence (three), MAS (two), and Cause R (one). The balance of power is unstable.

Sucre

The elections in this state were repeated in May 1993. The governor is Ramon Martinez (MAS). The balance of power in the legislature is unstable. AD has six of the 17 deputies, MAS five, Copei three, Cause R two, and Convergence one.

With 11 votes against his annual report, the governor will be out of office. The government can block the removal with seven votes.

Tachira

Governor Ron Sandoval (AD) was reelected in 1992 with 45 percent of the vote. The new balance of power in the Tachira legislature gives AD six of the 19 votes. Thirteen votes are needed to oust the governor by rejecting the report. The opposition has exactly 13 votes, divided as follows: Copei six, Convergence three, Cause R and MAS two each.

Trujillo

Governor Jose Mendez Quijada (AD) was reelected in 1992 with 48.4 percent of the vote. AD kept enough power in the regional legislature after last year's elections to block rejection of the annual report by two-thirds majority.

AD won six of the 15 legislative seats, leaving nine for the opposition. Ten votes are necessary to remove Governor Trujillo: Copei has five, Convergence three, and Cause R one.

Yaracuy

Nelson Suarez Montiel (Copei) is governor of this state, having been reelected in 1992 in an alliance of 24 parties, led by Copei. At that time he won 66 percent of the vote. After the December elections, however, his government became unstable. Nine votes are needed to remove him, and eight of them are held by the opposition: Convergence four, AD two, and MAS and Cause R one each. Copei has five deputies who, if they all continue to support the governor, can block a two-thirds majority vote to reject the report.

Zulia

Lolita Aniyar de Castro (MAS-Convergence) is governor. This is the only one of the 22 states where the governor was elected at the same time as the legislative assembly. The balance of power ended up unfavorable to the elected leader, however: MAS, Convergence, and Cause R, which supported Governor Aniyar, have eight of the 24 votes in the legislature; Copei has 10 and AD six. AD and Copei between them constitute a two-thirds majority.

The report to be submitted this year is not about the work of the current governor, however, since Aniyar just started her term.